



THE INDEPENDENT

Friday 31 October 1997 (IRSOP) 45p No 3,442

INSIDE TODAY

20/FEATURES

Cherie Booth:
can't she
do better
than this?



IN THE EYE



Kim Basinger
comes in
from the
cold

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TODAY'S NEWS

Virgin train tickets go through the ceiling

Richard Branson is often portrayed as the consumer's champion, yet his train company is proposing to raise some ticket prices by nearly eleven times the rate of inflation. Virgin Trains, whose network encompasses most of Britain, is planning to abolish its cheapest "walk-on" fares, forcing passengers to pay up to 37 per cent more to travel, using the cheapest tickets. Page 19

Abuse cases spread

New evidence that abuse is still widespread in Britain's care system is revealed in research which shows that one in four social workers have made complaints about colleagues physically abusing clients. Page 6

Algeria's 'disappeared'

Thousands of men and women in Algeria have been "disappeared" by the security forces. Robert Fisk in Algiers talks to a mother who has lost her son, whose existence the security forces now deny all knowledge of. Page 17

Football's gamblers

The Football Association is worried about a widespread culture of gambling on the outcome of football matches by players, managers and others close to the English game and is looking for ways to eradicate it. Page 13

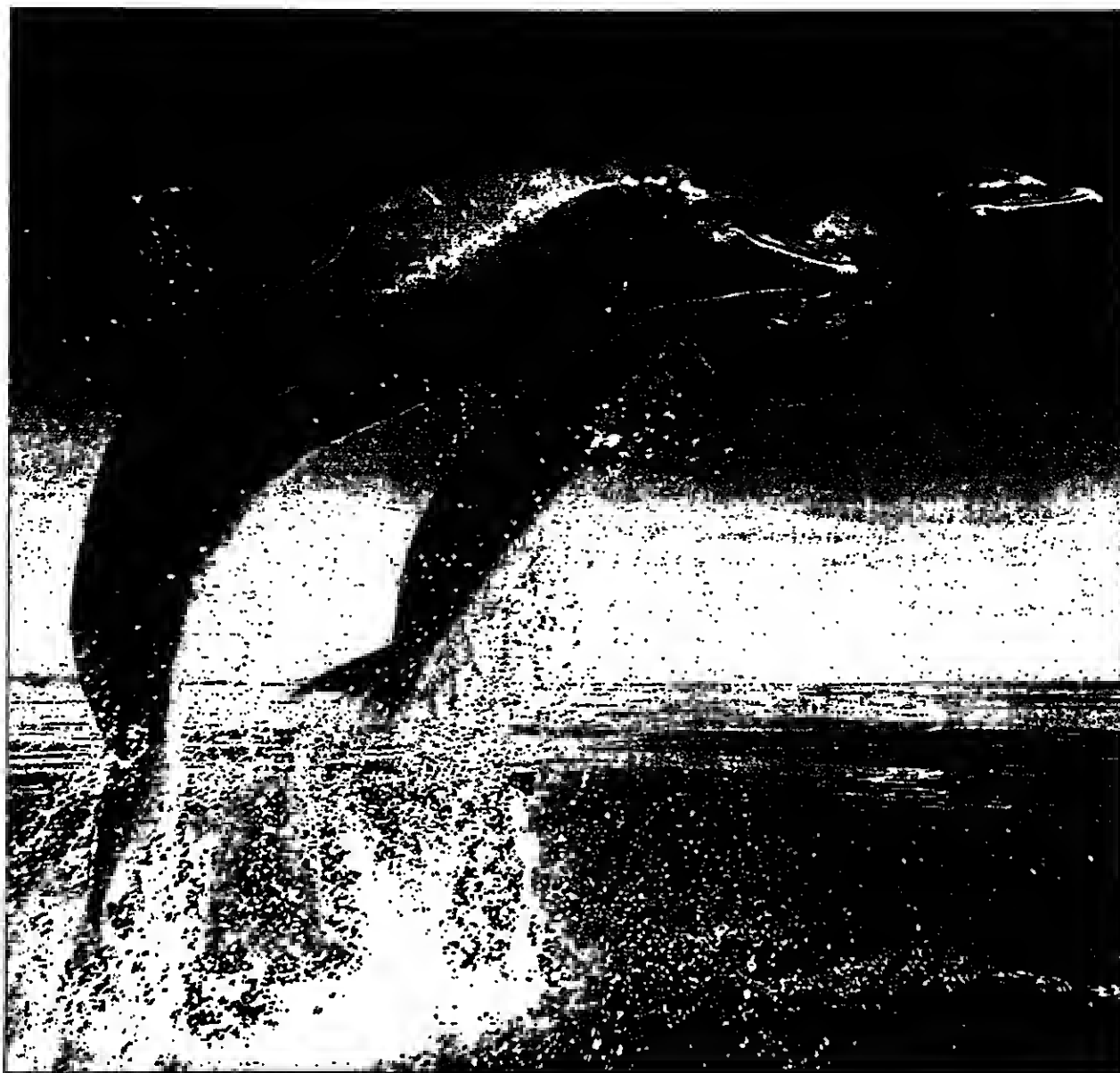
SEEN & HEARD

Never one to refuse a challenge, Annika Rice attacked the project to restore a historic Norfolk lighthouse with her customary gusto. Villagers were delighted with the free facelift to the 84ft high structure in Happisburgh. But once the television cameras vanished the trustees discovered Miss Rice had used the wrong type of paint and the Grade II lighthouse needs to be restored at a cost of £30,000. They have applied for lottery funds but may have to raise the money themselves. As one trustee member said mockingly: "It seemed like a good idea at the time but we wish we had never seen her now."



44 WEATHER The Eye, page 26
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CROSSWORDS Page 32 and
the Eye, page 25
Web address: <http://www.independent.co.uk>

Dolphins to be saved from the driftnet walls of death



They are much loved, yet thousands of dolphins are killed by driftnets of fishermen. But that is now likely to end. Yesterday Fisheries Minister Elliot Morley announced Britain will use its presidency of the EU next

year to outlaw the huge 'walls of death' floating behind tuna boats. The move is almost certain to succeed. There is the support of public opinion in the member countries, and strong backing from

pressure groups. British fishermen accept they face a fait accompli, but will demand compensation for expensive equipment. Report, page 9
Photograph: Konrad Wothel / Oxford Scientific Films

Tories' civil war puts Hague on the rack

The Tories were digging in for a long, vicious civil war last night, leaving William Hague's leadership in deep crisis. Our political editor reports on the emergence of Michael Heseltine as leader of a European party within the Conservative ranks.

Tony Blair and Mr Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, yesterday warned that Mr Hague's headline stance against a European single currency risked cutting the Tories adrift from their traditional business backers.

But Mr Hague showed no sign of climbing down, in spite of a lethal alliance of Mr Heseltine, the former Chancellor Kenneth Clarke, and Lord Howe, another former Deputy Prime Minister, now ranged against him.

Following Wednesday's decision by Ian Taylor to resign from the Conservative frontbench, another Tory dissident Peter Temple-Morris announced yesterday that he had pulled back from the brink of defection to Labour, to stand and fight with his new-found allies in favour of single currency membership.

Mr Blair had two meetings with Mr Temple-Morris, and the Prime Minister's office said two other Tory MPs had been in recent contact with Labour officials.

The spokesman said they were "in various stages of resignation" and he made clear that Ministers would not hesitate to rub salt into the running sore of Tory divisions over Europe. "We are now on the offensive," he added.

Yesterday, that was illustrated by the line taken by Mr Blair in Cabinet, when he was reported to have told colleagues: "One of our strategic goals was to go into the next election as the party of business; and that is now possible."

The Prime Minister's Cabinet message was earlier underlined by Mr Heseltine, who told the BBC radio *Today* programme that Mr Hague had exposed the party to the real

danger of "fighting Britain's major companies over the issue of Europe".

Mr Heseltine said a single currency was inevitable, "short of nuclear war or some event of that scale". It would happen, and the only question was when Britain would join up. "The longer we delay, the longer we fail to tell the British people the truth about Britain's relationship with Europe, the more damage we do to our national self-interest, and someone has got to lance this boil."

Lord Howe said: "The last election showed conclusively that the British people do not reward Euro-sceptic parties at the polls. Tony Blair understands this fact very well and is seeking to exploit it, un-

BY ANTHONY
BEVINS

derstandably and shrewdly, to the advantage of our country and his party alike."

The Prime Minister's office said that Britain's presidency of the European Union, from January, would be used to outflank Mr Hague at every turn, but there would also be plenty of other opportunities to exploit Tory divisions - as with the legislation to enact the Amsterdam Treaty in two week's time.

Mr Hague is so opposed to that Treaty that he has called for a referendum on it, but Lord Howe said yesterday: "Fortunately, the public has reacted to this proposal with complete indifference."

That taste of Mr Hague's Euroscepticism is becoming increasingly bitter. One MP said yesterday that Mr Heseltine and his friends should be expelled from the party, and some of Mr Hague's backers refer to the Heseltine camp as "the enemy within" - Margaret Thatcher's disparaging 1980s remark about the miners.

There are increasing signs that the divisions are being pushed to the point of personal vendetta.

Yesterday's *London Evening Standard*

Anguish goes on as Woodward waits for verdict

The jury is still out and every morning - every hour - seems identical to the last one. David Usborne in Cambridge, Massachusetts, shares the courtroom suspense.

she intentionally killed Matthew."

Of the hurt that will not go away he said: "I can't think about Matthew for more than a minute without breaking down. Sometimes I wake up and feel for him and I think he's there and I put my hands up and he's not there."

Of the trial itself, Mr Eappen said: "In the overall scheme of things, it doesn't change anything you know, Matthew is dead." His wife went on: "If Louise is found not to be responsible for his death, it doesn't take away the truth that we know. It takes away the justice."

As for the contention that Matthew died of an old head injury, they reject it outright. "It's totally ridiculous, there is no basis for that statement," Mrs Eappen insisted. "It's just a big cloud of confusion. It's the Barry Scheck approach."

Meanwhile yesterday, the judge told the jury: "If at any point in your consideration you are unable to determine that the government has proved a particular element then your inquiry is at an end." He declined to provide jurors with a transcript of testimony also on the serum issue, given by a key defence witness, Dr Jan Leestma.

In a written note to the judge the jury had said: "With regard to our last request on hearing Dr Leestma's testimony regarding the fluid, it is critical to advance deliberation. We respectfully request that the testimony be transcribed so that we may hear it."

It is not usual in Massachusetts however, to provide transcripts of past testimony to jurors who are asked instead to rely on their memories and any notes they took during trial.

On trial, page 3

Zinfandel?

Don't they swim in the Bahamas?



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COLUMN ONE

Big-spending Finns top the UK visitor stakes

The Belgians are the most parsimonious of European visitors to our shores, the Finns are the most generous, and the Turks and Greeks are more cautious with their money than they used to be - according to the International Passenger Survey from the Office for National Statistics. The survey breaks down the number of overseas visitors to the UK in the past two years according to which country they came from, and also lists the total spending of people from each nation.

The results, however, are most revealing when we divide the total amount spent by the number of visits to give an average amount spent per visit. The differences are enormous. While the average visitor from Belgium or Luxembourg pops over, presumably only for a day-trip to buy some decent milk chocolate, they spend only £173. The French aren't much better at only £191. Those two countries have maintained their bottom two places in the league of European spenders. Here are the top 10:

Table 1: Big spenders of Europe
(last year's positions in brackets)

Country	£ spent per UK visit in 1996
1. Finland (7)	951
2. Russia (3)	877
3. Turkey (1)	873
4. Greece (2)	762
5. Iceland (5)	725
6. Yugoslavia (4)	686
7. Switzerland (8)	575
8. Spain (-)	571
9. Italy (9)	515
9. Austria (10)	515

Nowadays, on a worldwide scale it's not even the Americans who are leading the way to spend their dollars over here. The Nigerians, Egyptians and practically anyone from the Middle East now spends more than twice as much as the average American, with Egypt leading the way on £1,778 a visit, compared with £640 for a visitor from the United States.

Table 2: Big spenders of the World

Country	£ spent per UK visit 1996
1. Egypt (8)	1,778
2. Nigeria (4)	1,742
3. Iran (3)	1,667
4. Saudi Arabia (2)	1,384
5. China (7)	1,354
6. Gulf States (1)	1,321
7. Malaysia (-)	1,160
8. Pakistan (6)	1,154
9. Brazil (-)	1,154
10. Thailand (-)	1,074

Of these totals, 36.1 per cent is spent on accommodation, 22 per cent on eating out, 24.5 per cent on shopping, 8.0 per cent on internal travel, 7.2 per cent on something euphemistically referred to as "services, etc." and only 2.3 per cent on entertainment. What the figures do not tell us, however, is the average length of stay of each visitor. One Nigerian may be the match of 10 Belgians, but could he spend all that money on a day-trip to Felbstow?

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PEOPLE



The guardian of No 10 knocks off at last

One of the world's most famous doormen, Bob Jordan, yesterday closed the door for the last time at Number 10 Downing Street, after retiring from the post he has held for a decade.

Mr Jordan, 65, has seen the world's leaders pass through the doorway, including Ronald Reagan, Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachev and Bill Clinton, and Blairite celebrities such as Lenny Henry and Noel Gallagher. Mr Jordan, who has been on first-name terms with statesmen and women from around the globe, served three prime ministers - Margaret Thatcher, John Major and Mr Blair. He was in the background, as ever, when Baroness Thatcher tearfully left Downing Street for the last time after being ousted by her own party. He was there when Mr Major held press conferences in the street on war in the Gulf and peace in Ulster.

He was made MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List and yesterday was given the red-carpet treatment himself by Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, who entertained Mr Jordan to tea in one of the Downing Street reception-rooms. Mr Jordan disclosed that on one occasion he "confiscated" a water-pistol from their son Nicholas, who wanted to take it to school. "By the time he returned from school I had filled it and squirted him with it," he said.

Cutting aside from a regal frock-maker

Sir Hardy Amies, one of the Queen's favourite dress-makers, yesterday launched an attack on the modern fashion industry, dismissing the designers as "flash" and their clothes as "terrible".

The world-famous veteran of style and taste, now 86, denounced the catwalk as a publicity device, showing off clothes which looked as though they had come out of Folies Bergère.

"Few of the clothes you see on the catwalk and photographed in the popular press... are wearable by couture standards," he said. "They are not clothes to appeal to a customer prepared to pay the high price of a couture dress."

John Galiano, the Dior designer, and Alexander McQueen of Givenchy are particularly singled out for criticism. "Neither I



Tyson punctures lung in bike crash

The former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson suffered a punctured lung in a motor-cycle accident in Manchester, Connecticut. Tyson, 31, also broke a rib and is expected to be in hospital for 48 hours.

Doctors put a tube in the lung to re-inflate it and Dr Lenworth Jacobs said Tyson's condition was constantly improving. Tyson is currently serving a one-year ban from boxing after biting off a chunk of Evander Holyfield's ear during their World Boxing Association title bout in Las Vegas in June this year. His manager, Rory Holloway, said Tyson was in good spirits, adding: "We're just fortunate that he is OK. It could have been a lot worse."

The accident happened during rush-hour and friends said Tyson's machine skidded when it hit sand. No other vehicle was involved.

— Amanda Kelly

UPDATE

PUBLIC HEALTH

Call for wider transplant access

Serious thought should be given to using organs from patients in permanent vegetative state after their death, according to a paper in *The Lancet*. But yesterday doctors said there were ethical problems which could make this "inappropriate" and ruled out using a quicker mode of death to obtain the organs when they were usable. There are thought to be 1,000 patients in PVS in the UK. If PVS patients are allowed to die by withdrawing food and fluids, by the time the patient dies the organs are usually unusable. Authors of the paper suggested that while more expeditious death - for example, a lethal drug - could mean organs are viable, this is illegal. They suggest a change could be considered to define death as loss of irreversible higher-brain function or treat them the same as infants born with part of the brain missing.

Glenda Cooper

PRISONS

Private funds the key to new jails

The Prison Service missed out on £44m savings over the award of contracts to build two privately run jails, the public-spending watchdog disclosed. But private finance for new jails at Fazakerley, Merseyside, and Bridgend, South Wales, did save £50m compared to state funding of buildings and provided a faster, more innovative service.

A National Audit Office report criticised the Prison Service for failing to take full account of potential savings that could have been achieved by awarding contracts to a single bidder, rather than two separate ones.

TRANSPORT

Poor more at risk on the roads

Poor people are more at risk from road vehicles and are more vulnerable to traffic pollution than other social groups, says a report out today. The poor were also the worst affected by traffic noise, said the report, by the environmental transport group Alarm UK.

The document said poor people get a bad deal from the transport system; that, as they live in built-up areas, they were worst affected by traffic noise, while their children stood a greater-than-average chance of being killed on the roads; and that public-transport fare rises in recent years had eaten into their limited budgets.



The Mule

Inside some editions of *The Independent* today is a free copy of *The Mule* - the work of 26 artists with a view on the media's interpretation of information, sponsored by the Arts Council. *The Independent* played no part in commissioning it and takes no responsibility for its content.

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.31	Italy (lira)	2,765
Austria (schillings)	19.66	Japan (yen)	198.11
Belgium (francs)	57.78	Malta (lira)	10.61
Canada (\$)	2.28	Netherlands (guilders)	3.15
Cyprus (pounds)	0.82	Norway (kroner)	11.47
Denmark (kroner)	10.72	Portugal (escudos)	265.41
France (francs)	9.36	Spain (pesetas)	205.41
Germany (marks)	2.80	Sweden (kroner)	12.25
Greece (drachmai)	446.03	Switzerland (francs)	2.25
Hong Kong (\$)	12.50	Turkey (lira)	2,250.00
Ireland (punts)	1.07	United States (\$)	1.63

Sources: Thomas Cook
Rates for indication purposes only

ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley



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The Eappens join in media free-for-all

Reporting court cases in Britain is straightforward – do not say anything that might be prejudicial. But in America, almost anything goes. David Usborne watched Matthew Eappen's parents tell the nation what they thought of Louise Woodward.

There was a brief scuffle outside the courthouse at the Louise Woodward trial one evening recently when a British journalist escorting Woodward's family members outside took vocal exception to the crowd of American reporters waiting on the street.

"Where do you think you are?" a local cameraman fired back at him. "It's OK in this country."

You can hardly blame the Briton for his confusion. Back home, the rules for courtroom coverage are draconian and woe be to those who ignore them. In the US, things are a tad different. It is not quite true that anything goes, but almost true. Information has flowed from this trial like water over the Niagara Falls.

It is not just the single TV camera that rests alongside the jury box and which feeds the appetite of the multi-million cable audiences in America and Britain. It is more than that: Massachusetts law imposes few restrictions on what the rest of us can do on reporting on the case. One of the Woodwards in that street altercation – Susan – was a witness in the case but attempting to interview her was quite legitimate. There is a gag order in this trial but it applies to the lawyers only.

Nothing was more startling than the interview that Sunil and Deborah Eappen gave to the CBS News magazine *Public Eye* with Bryant Gumbel on Wednesday. In that show, broadcast to evening prime time, the couple spoke in detail about the case and their dead son, Matthew, even as the verdict was still in the hands of the jury.

They affirmed their belief in the guilt of Louise and decried the defence strategy. "In my

mind – in our minds – there is no doubt that she murdered Matthew," said Mr Eappen.

Indeed the Eappens were on a plane from Boston to New York and the CBS studios as the jury was deliberating.

The Gumbel coup – this was the first time the Eappens had spoken out – left the legions of fixers and reporters on the other American network news magazines, who have been prowling the corridors of the courthouse since the trial started, ashen with anger. CBS News had blown them out of the water. "How do you think they got them?" one distraught NBC producer asked (as if *The Independent* would know). "What was their trump card?"

One thing it was not was money: the main US network say they never pay for news programme interviewees.

As for the Woodwards, the Americans seem to have given up all hope of access in the belief that they have been bought up already by Carlton Television's documentary programme *Big Story*. Amongst the British newspapers the bidding war still appears to be raging. The *News of the World* and the *Sun* at least, have both entered negotiations for exclusive, post-verdict buy-outs.

The jurors, meanwhile, are in everyone's sights. This reporter observed as the producers of one US nightly news show stuffed letters in to envelopes, each one beginning "Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury", and going on to exhort them to attend a live jury reconstruction before the cameras immediately after the verdict.

Perhaps most surprising for British reporters, however, has been the extent of the official help extended to us. Judge Hiller Zobel, for example, will formally invite those among the jury who are willing to return to the courtroom after the verdict to talk to us from the jury box.

Every court session begins and ends with an admonishment from the judge to the jurors to avert their eyes from the media coverage of the trial. Yesterday, he felt obliged specifically to ask if anyone had watched Bryant Gumbel on CBS.

No, they each insisted, none of them had.



The anguish at the Riggers pub, in Eton, Cheshire, where friends of Louise Woodward have been awaiting a verdict Photograph: Peter Byrne/Guzellian

Back in Cheshire, a village says its prayers

Life in Eton, the Cheshire home of Louise Woodward, continues as normal but the atmosphere is heavy. Esther Leach joins the teenager's supporters who are glued to Sky TV in the local pub where the trial is being screened live.

The tension has become almost too much to bear for some of the supporters of Louise Woodward who have crowded into the local public house, waiting for news.

Debbie Lalor, 36, who has worked in support of the campaign to free Louise Woodward, has often been on the verge of tears. She looks tired and drawn as she patiently answers questions from television reporters and allows photographers to take pictures.

Ms Lalor often asked Louise Woodward to baby-sit for her 11-year-old daughter Georgina. She said Georgie used to hang

out of the window waiting for Louise to arrive. "She was so good with Georgie. I can't understand any of this."

The Rigger public house, usually a quiet place, has become the centre where television crews and journalists have gathered with regulars and friends of the Woodward family to follow the trial screened live on Sky TV.

Life in the village of almost 6,000 goes on in as normal a way as possible. A bingo game was being played on in the pub side-by-side with the locals watching the latest twists in the trial.

It's half-term and children kick their heels on the green outside the pub. James Hamilton, 14, said: "We don't believe she's done anything. We can't wait for her to come home and see her out and about again."

Two sisters, Tessa White-way and Dena Blackburne, who have lived in the village for more than 15 years, take their usual walk through the streets.

Mrs Whiteway said there was an air of sadness about the place.



In suspense: Louise Woodward checking a document yesterday with her lawyers, Andrew Good (right) and Harvey Silvergate Photograph: Reuters

"Everyone, even those who don't know the Woodwards, are touched by what is happening. I don't know the family but I know of them and I find myself saying little prayers for them. I've raised money and organised jumble sales for them. There's a heavy air about the village," she said.

Mrs Blackburne said it was usual for the village to rally round those who needed their help. "The Woodwards are a good family. And no one believes she could have done it."

Support typical of the village came from two teachers who know Louise. David Hudson, her former headmaster at pri-

mary school in Eton, and Elizabeth Lord, her headmistress at senior school in nearby Helsby, both travelled to Boston to give evidence of Louise's character.

Mr Hudson, now head of Woolston County Primary School, prepared a newsletter telling of his experience. He circulated 1,000 copies throughout Eton where villagers were working together to raise thousands of pounds to help pay the Woodwards' expenses enabling them to be near their daughter.

He had also written to Louise, as did hundreds of others telling her of his support.

He said: "The letter was so banal, just about life at home. It seemed stupid telling Louise about things going on here when she was in prison. But I posted it just to let her know I was here for her."

"Whatever happens to her now she will need all the support she can get. I am talking about the time she is free, when she is married and has her own children. What will she feel when she holds her own nine-month-old baby?"

IN THE
INDEPENDENT
TOMORROW

ISM



Andrew
Graham-
Dixon on
Holbein's
hidden
meaning



The secret of a
perfect pie

TIME OFF



Mysteries of
Betjeman land

A judo
master's code
of conduct

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Countdown to controversy as girl boxers take to the ring

The debate over women's boxing will be rekindled in Wales today when the first official amateur boxing match takes place between two teenage girls.

The controversial event will be the first of its kind to be sanctioned by the Amateur Boxing Association, following a recent change in its rules.

Marie Leefe and Marie Davies, both 16, have been training for three years and are determined not to let the recent negative publicity about women's participation in the sport put them off.

A similar event between two 13-year-old girls was cancelled earlier in the month when the immense media and public attention surrounding the contest became too much.

The British Medical Association strongly denounced the

event, saying that to allow women to fight was "demented". The association argued that it would only give them equal rights with men to suffer brain damage.

The ABA's decision to allow women to fight has also split the boxing world. Many, like the former British heavyweight champion Henry Cooper, called for it to be banned; others, like Barry McGuigan, a former featherweight champion, said it would be sexist to deny women the right to box.

A spokesman for the Whitland Amateur Boxing Club, Pembrokeshire, said: "They are just two girls who enjoy boxing and who have been training hard. This is a small local event between two local girls and we are not looking for any publicity."



Fighting for equality: Marie Leefe and Marie Davies will take part in the first official bout. Photograph: Philip Hollis

CJD fear prompts recall of blood products

Worries that the "human BSE" strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (v-CJD) could be passed on by products made from blood have forced the National Blood Authority to recall plasma products from 26 distribution sites in England.

The recall was made on the orders of the Medicines Control Agency (MCA) last night, and will put extra pressure on a service which is already struggling to meet demand. Not only will it reduce the amount of blood products such as plasma available to treat burns victims and haemophiliacs, but it could increase fears about the reliability of blood offered for transfusions.

The MCA made the order following new recommendations from the European Committee on Proprietary Medicinal Products.

Plasma - which is normally

used to treat burns and haemophilia, had been donated in 1995 by an unnamed victim of "new variant" CJD, which is caused by eating BSE-infected food. The victim's condition was only confirmed on Tuesday.

The recall order only applied to blood products rather than blood - almost certainly because any blood donated would have been used long ago. It is likely that the victim's plasma, pooled with that of 2,000 other donors, will also have been used now.

A statement from the National Blood Service said: "The recall is purely a precautionary measure since there is no epidemiological evidence to suggest that CJD can be transmitted between humans through blood transfusions or the use of blood products."

— Charles Arthur Science Editor

Republican faction's bombs shake Irish peace process

Attempted republican bomb attacks in two Northern Ireland cities yesterday served to underline the fragility of the Irish peace process, although no one was injured in either incident.

Responsibility for the two bombs, neither of which exploded, were claimed by the Continuity Army Council, a breakaway republican faction which believes Sinn Féin and the IRA have gone soft and abandoned traditional republican objectives.

The first attack took place in Londonderry when a gunman carried a holdall into government offices, announcing that there was a bomb inside which would go off 20 minutes later. The premises were quickly cleared.

In the event only the detonator exploded, failing to set off the main device. Army experts who dealt with it said it contained one-and-a-half pounds of commercial explosives together with three gallons of petrol.

This type of device, known as a blast incendiary, is intended to scatter blazing petrol over a wide area, thus starting a major fire. While such attacks were once almost commonplace they are now rare enough to cause general surprise.

A local reporter, Paul McFadden of BBC Radio Foyle, said: "People are shocked - it's a bolt out of the blue. There had been no indication to expect anything of this nature. At the moment people are just too stunned to describe their feelings."

The second incident came later in Armagh, when a device was left behind a hoarding with the intention of causing security force casualties. The bomb did not go off.

The incidents illustrate that while the big battalions of paramilitarism - the IRA, UVF and UDA - appear almost entirely inactive, smaller fringe elements on both the republican

and loyalist sides continue to pose a threat to life. At the weekend, for example, the small but violent Loyalist Volunteer Force issued a death threat against senior Irish civil servants working in Belfast.

The CAC said yesterday that there would be no peace until British troops were withdrawn from Northern Ireland and all prisoners were released. The grouping is considered to have the capacity for only occasional acts of violence. In mid-September a large bomb planted by it caused major damage to the Co Armagh town of Markethill.

Although some Unionists claim the CAC operates with the tacit consent of the IRA, both security and republican sources characterise it as a completely separate organisation which is very much at odds with the IRA.

— David McKittrick, Ireland Correspondent

Low turnout in Irish poll for president

Poor weather, a Dublin taxi drivers' protest blockade, and an apparently inevitable victory for Fianna Fáil's Mary McAleese, contributed to a low early turnout in yesterday's Irish presidential election.

The final opinion poll taken on Monday showed Mrs McAleese holding a 16 per cent lead when "don't knows" were excluded over her nearest rival, Fine Gael's Mary Banotti MEP. Counting begins at 9 am today. The last presidential election in 1990 elected Mary Robinson on a 64 per cent turnout.

The 2.7 million people eligible to vote will also be asked in a simultaneous constitutional referendum to relax the current absolute rule of confidentiality of cabinet discussions. The new terms would allow for exceptions, under High Court direction, to apply in a court case, or official tribunal of inquiry.

— Alan Murdoch

Woman remanded on murder charge

A 26-year-old woman was remanded in custody when she appeared in court yesterday charged with murdering a bishop's son.

Justine Cummings, of East Reach, Taunton, Somerset, was charged with murdering Peter Lewis, 27, son of the Rt Rev Richard Lewis, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

The offence is alleged to have taken place at Taunton on Wednesday. Ms Cummings, who appeared in court in a red shirt and dark coat, was remanded until 6 November by chairman of the bench, John Wood. She was accompanied in the dock by a female security officer. There was no application for bail, and reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Mr Lewis was pronounced dead at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, early on Wednesday morning, after being found with a stab wound at a flat in East Reach. News of his death was broken to the bishop and his wife, Sara, at the couple's holiday home in Hemynock, Devon. Canon Simon Pettit, a spokesman for the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich diocese, said: "This is a difficult time for Bishop Richard."

BBC's Bevan film to reach beyond Wales

BBC network bosses in London have recovered from their latest bout of metropolitan myopia and belatedly agreed to give a major new drama about the Welsh-born Labour legend Aneurin Bevan a nationwide screening.

As exclusively revealed by *The Independent* last week, the writer-director Trevor Griffiths feared the 85-minute film would be shown only in Wales at the centenary of Bevan's birth next month. Mr Griffiths's decision to speak out to this newspaper appears to have embarrassed the BBC's director of television, Alan Yentob, into scheduling the work. *Food for Raven*, starring the Scottish actor Brian Cox, will now be shown in Wales at 9pm on Saturday 15 November and elsewhere at 11.15pm on BBC2 the following day.

Mr Griffiths said yesterday: "I'm very pleased that the piece be shown across the UK in the weekend that a whole series of events will be staged to commemorate Bevan."

— Rob Brown, Media Editor

Slovakia offers to repatriate gypsies

Slovakia has offered to repatriate a group of its gypsies seeking asylum in Britain. Vladimir Meciar, the country's Prime Minister, said.

"We are negotiating with the French and British authorities ... that they should collect all the Roma [gypsies] from Slovakia. We shall ... transport them back," Mr Meciar said this week. "Those coming later will have to pay their own fare back," he added.

About 1,000 gypsies from the Czech and Slovak Republics have landed in Dover by ferry from France over the past few months, seeking political asylum on the grounds of racial persecution in their countries.

"Slovakia does not consider itself a country whose ethnic minorities are politically persecuted," Mr Meciar said.

On Monday, the UK announced a tightening of rules governing applications for political asylum. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that so-called "abusive" asylum seekers "would have five working days after arriving at British ports to make official applications to remain in Britain, compared with the 28 days previously allowed."

— Reuters, Bratislava

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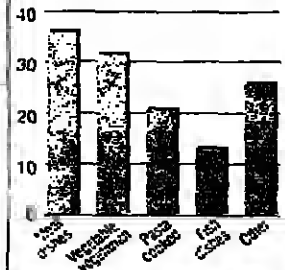
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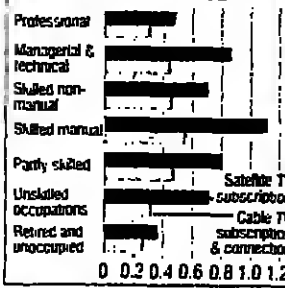
Convenience foods

% households recording expenditure on ready prepared convenience foods



Satellite/cable TV

Average weekly expenditure by social class of head of household, £



Cooking for convenience: busy lifestyles have given us an appetite for TV dinners

Photograph: John Buckingham

Nineties shoppers seek the easy life

We are a nation of mobile-
phoning, supermarket-shopping,
convenience food eaters,
according to the latest snapshot
of our spending habits. Glendo
Cooper Social Affairs
Correspondent chronicles the
rise of the "must have now"
society.

Weekly household expenditure

	1987	1996
Food	\$4.77 (33.0%)	Food and non-alcoholic drinks \$56.10 (18.0%)
Clothing and footwear	1.45 (10.0%)	Leisure goods and services 49.10 (16.0%)
Services	1.25 (8.7%)	Housing 49.10 (16.0%)
Housing	1.24 (8.7%)	Transport 48.70 (15.7%)
Transport and vehicles	1.16 (8.0%)	Household goods and services 43.10 (14.0%)
Durable household goods	1.09 (7.6%)	Clothing and footwear 18.30 (6.0%)
Other goods	1.04 (7.3%)	Fuel and power 13.30 (4.3%)
Fuel, light and power	0.87 (6.0%)	Alcoholic drink 12.40 (4.0%)
Tobacco	0.87 (6.0%)	Personal goods and services 11.60 (3.9%)
Alcoholic drink	0.46 (3.2%)	Tobacco 6.10 (2.0%)
Pocket money to children etc 0.07 (0.5%)	Miscellaneous 2.20 (0.7%)	
Total	\$14.27	Total \$289.19

The latest annual Family Spending survey into "who's spending, how much, on what and where" shows we are becoming a nation that does not want to wait for its pleasures, but which has to have life as easy as possible.

Our average weekly expenditure is now £309 a week. However, while the poorest 10 per cent spend only £94 per week, the wealthiest decile spend more than £500 more at £677.

Food still remains the biggest drain on expenditure, although this is now closely followed by our love of leisure goods and services. But one of the most important developments ONS found is the growing dependence on modern technology. "These things are no longer seen as hi-

tech gadgets but essentials," said John King, editor of the survey.

One in four 30-49ers seems unable to manage without a mobile phone for private use (the ONS figures are concerned only with domestic spending). And one in four households now have a computer, though they still have some way to go with the older generation - less than one in 20 people over 75 has invested in one.

While ownerships of mobile phones and computers increased with higher social class, the same was not true of satellite dishes and cable television. Nearly one

in three skilled manual workers had a satellite dish compared with only one in seven of professional households.

For the first time ONS also examined closely where people were doing their shopping, confirming that we prefer to do most of our shopping in one place - the supermarket. Of the 6,000 households surveyed, 96 per cent said they bought food at supermarket outlets.

But perhaps one of the most obvious manifestations of the "must have now" society is the astonishing growth in convenience foods. Nearly seven out of ten of

us are buying convenience foods every week. While meat dishes are the most popular, vegetarian ones are creeping up behind, but now one in five of us is buying prepared fresh pasta, a food that was almost unknown a few years ago.

This year, the Family Spending Survey will reach its 40th year, and looking back to 1957 we can see how things have changed. Food has dropped from a third to 18 per cent of our expenditure, reflecting the higher disposable income we enjoy. The publicised risks of smoking mean that we also spend less on tobacco - in the 1950s people were spending the same amount on their nicotine habit as on fuel. Before the growth of cheap high street stores, clothes also ate up a greater percentage of the family budget.

But the other facet that Family Spending brings out, said Mr King, is that popular stereotypes are reflected in the data. So yes, the Scots do drink more spirits than the rest of us and those in Yorkshire drink more beer. But why those in North West and Merseyside spend less on toiletries and soap than anyone else is not clear at all.

Family Spending 1996-7 is published by the Stationery Office price £37.50

'Safe smacking' video provokes a storm

A New Zealand businessman has arrived in Britain to promote a video which encourages parents to use a nine-inch leather strap to "safely" smack their children up to 30 times a day. Ian Burrell reports that children's charities and MPs are concerned at his motives and the effects his video will have.

Philip Holdway-Davis stared into the camera and held up the bright-red, leather strap that he is offering free to all purchasers of his new "Safe Smack Parenting Programme" video.

The film shows a young boy being made to lie down on his bed to be spanked by a man, depicted as his father. As the blows are administered the father repeats: "This will hurt my heart more than your bottom but I must do it for your own learning."

Parents are advised in smacking technique by a man called "Sam Smack" who tells them to take good aim. He says: "I have given hundreds and hundreds of smacks and so I'm pretty well-qualified to give advice." But Mr Holdway-Davis himself was less confident in the science behind the video yesterday, as he recoiled under a wave of criticism.

During a succession of media interviews aimed at launching "this unique family-strengthening and anti-child-abuse programme" he revealed that his idea for the project came as he was remonstrating with a woman who was beating her child

in the street to direct her blows not to the head but to the bottom.

The video advocates smacking children from the age of 18 months upwards and suggests using two straps sewn together for disciplining children above the age of four. Youngsters of seven can be smacked up to 30 times a day, it suggests.

In the course of a debate on Radio 5 Live Mr Holdway-Davis admitted: "I kind of thought what could be the maximum safe limit for seven-year-olds; maybe 30. But I think in retrospect that, when I have managed to sit down and talk with experts in that area, that it may probably come down to about 20."

Mr Holdway-Davis, 37, is married with three children and says he has invested £12,000 of his own money into the video project. He plans to sell it to the UK by mail order from New Zealand.

The children's charity Kidscape said that 30 smacks a day amounted to child abuse. It condemned the film as "deeply sick". Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Birmingham Erdington, called for both the video and strap to be banned.

"This is a dangerous sickness. It runs the very real risk of encouraging child abuse," he said. "I think the New Zealand government should also take an interest in this to prevent it from happening."

Tory MP David Wilshire, who believes that smacking young children in extreme situations is justified, said: "It is distasteful if it is marketing physical punishment."

"It will make it easier for people who are likely to be involved in child abuse to justify what they are doing."



Video image: Philip Holdway-Davis holding the bright-red, leather strap

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Social workers linked to widespread abuse

New evidence that abuse is still widespread in Britain's care system is revealed in research which shows that one in four social workers have made complaints about colleagues physically abusing clients. And an extraordinary one in twelve workers involved with children, the elderly, and people with physical and mental disabilities, have also made complaints to their managers about sexual abuse.

The research, due to be published later this year, gives a unique insight into an under-resourced, remotely managed care system where social workers complain about a range of problems from institutional or degradation and racial segregation in residential homes, to care workers being drunk at work, and misuse of medicines.

One-third of social workers complained about clients being verbally abused by care workers, and reports of physical neglect, emotional abuse, theft and fraud, and breaches of confidentiality are also widespread, according to the research. The findings will fuel fears that abuse is still endemic in the care system, despite 30 years of inquiries and reports. It will also renew calls for a professional regulation body for social workers - rejected by the last government.

"The findings we have are disturbing and very depressing and show that something is very wrong with our social services," said Dr Geoffrey Hunt, director of the European Centre for Professional Ethics at the University of East London who details the research in a new book, *Whistleblowing in the Social Services*, to be published by Arnold. Leading child care lawyer, Allan Levy,

who chaired the inquiry into the use of pin-down in children's homes, said yesterday, "My reaction to these figures is one of utter amazement after so much has happened in recent times."

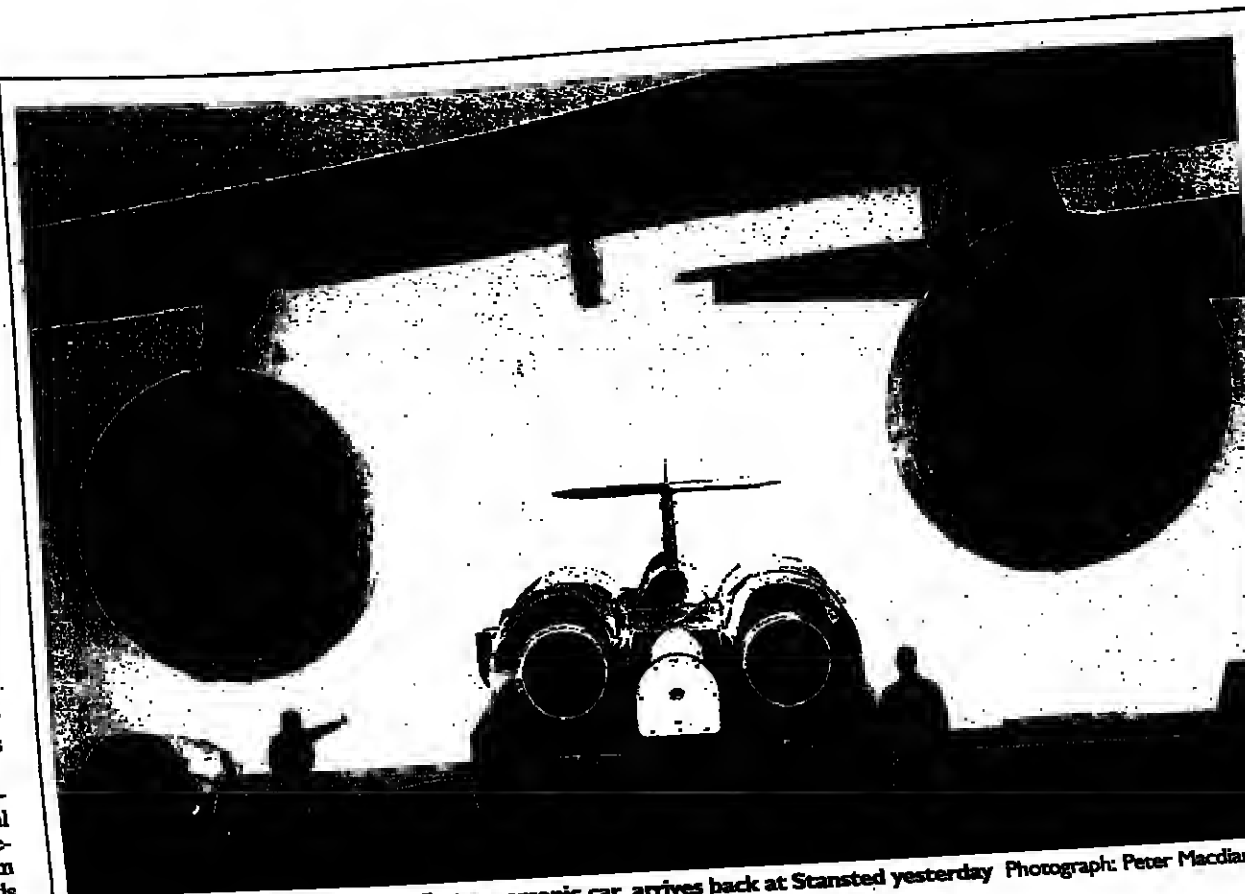
Social workers who took part in the research were asked to detail complaints they had made about misconduct among colleagues over the last two years. Nearly 400 social workers, one-third of whom were team managers or leaders, took part.

A surprising one-quarter of the social workers questioned had personally reported to a superior the physical abuse of a client by other staff members in the last two years. Even more worrying, one in twelve said they had reported sexual abuse in the previous two-year period," said Dr Hunt.

The data shows that 33 per cent of social workers had complained about verbal abuse of clients, and 20 per cent had reported complaints of theft or frauds from clients. Ten per cent had reported records being falsified and 14 per cent had complained about physical neglect. One in seven said they had made complaints about racism against clients. One said, "There is segregation. Ethnic minority clients are not admitted into white-dominated homes."

The social workers presented a bleak picture of staff shortages and poor management. "Sickness and absenteeism were high, there was too much paperwork, and unqualified staff made matters worse," Dr Hunt said. Nearly 100 alleged abusers and 225 victims have now given evidence to the North Wales Abuse Tribunal, according to a progress report yesterday.

— Roger Dobson



Safe landing: Thrust, the world's first supersonic car, arrives back at Stansted yesterday. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Thrust record-breakers return to a champagne reception

The world's first supersonic car, Thrust SSC, and 16 members of the team which broke the world land speed record in the Nevada desert earlier this month, returned home from the United States to a champagne reception yesterday.

Landing at Stansted airport in Essex, yesterday morning, members of the triumphant team - minus the car's driver Andy Green - were met by the project

director, Richard Noble, clutching a bottle of champagne to celebrate the team's success.

Claiming that he always knew the team could achieve the world-beating 763.035mph record, Mr Noble said: "You have to believe you can do it in order for something to happen. I think we were all actually quite pleased that it went so smoothly."

Mr Noble refused to be drawn on future plans, but he did hint that there was something spectacular in the pipeline: "We have got something planned but there's a lot of research to do first," he said.

The car will now return to its hangar at Farnborough in Hampshire, but is due to appear at the Lord Mayor's Show in London next week. — Louise Hancock

Prisoners in protest over phonecards

There were warnings yesterday that violence and black-marketeering would break out in prisons following BT's decision to alter the price structure of its phonecards.

Prisoners, who must buy their phonecards out of their allowance of around £7 a week, have reacted with anger to BT changes which have significantly increased the cost of local calls from payphones at evenings and at weekends, when prisoners are allowed to call home.

Nick Flynn, of the Prison Reform Trust, said the changes should not have been applied to prisoners. "Phonecards, like drugs are used as a form of currency in prisons. Increasing phone charges will make them a more precious commodity and increase the risk of theft, intimidation and violence between prisoners," he said.

In a letter of complaint, inmates from HMP Shotts in Scotland said: "Given that a long-term prisoner earns an average of around £6.70 for a week's work and has to buy such luxuries as fruit, toiletries, vitamins and tobacco... this doesn't leave much time to talk... We accept that prisoners do not deserve much sympathy but we must not question whether society's needs are best served by further isolating and alienating prisoners from their families. Please remember that families are serving a sentence too and mutual support is essential."

BT yesterday announced an annual loss of £38m, following the windfall tax. Profits in the previous year were £469m.

— Ian Burrell

Dance-drug warning after death of young woman

Police yesterday issued a warning about the potential dangers of the legal dance drug known as GHB which is believed to have claimed its second victim in Britain.

Andrea Murphy, 25, of Park Avenue, Wigan, was found dead in her bedroom by a friend on Sunday morning and investigations revealed she had taken the drug - gamma hydroxy butyrate - shortly before she died.

In March last year, Abby Reading, 21, a bar worker, took the drug with a small amount of alcohol at a friend's house in Stourbridge, West Midlands. She was found collapsed the next day. Her inquest was told she died of heart and respiratory failure.

The drug heightens sexual awareness and is becoming popular on the dance scene.

The Department of Health is investigating several companies for making the drug, which is illegal to produce but out to

use or possess. It was banned in the United States after it was blamed for causing comas, seizures, respiratory collapse and nausea.

A post-mortem examination on Ms Murphy yesterday proved inconclusive and further forensic tests are now taking place.

A spokesman for Greater Manchester Police said: "It's a terribly risky drug to use because dosages affect people differently."

Ms Murphy's parents, Patrick and Kath, released a statement saying: "Her death would not be totally wasted if the message that these chemicals, and GHB is only a chemical, could kill is passed to others who may contemplate its use and thereby stop to think and not take what they believe is an enhancer but could be a killer."

— Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

Meningitis panic over

The outbreak of meningitis at Southampton University, which has led to the deaths of two students and put three others in hospital, is thought to be over. No new cases have been reported since Tuesday, and there has been a programme of inoculation and distribution of antibiotics to students living at the Wessex Lane halls, where the victims were staying.

The first death of a 19-year-old woman occurred on 11 October and a second 19-year-old woman died last Monday. Two male first-year students are in hospital at Southampton and a third is receiving treatment in Buckinghamshire. All three were said to be improving.

A mobile information centre from the National Meningitis Trust remained on campus yesterday. A helpline set up at the university has dealt with hundreds of calls from students and parents.

— Glenda Cooper

Hepatitis alert

A helpline was inundated with anxious callers yesterday as a health authority alerted hundreds of hospital patients to a hepatitis scare after an elderly man died. A surgeon carrying the liver disease virus could have infected the man, who died three months after a hip operation.

North Wales health authority began the task of tracing more than 800 people who underwent orthopaedic surgery at two hospitals where the doctor had worked since January last year. Hepatitis B is serious but rarely fatal.

● The helpline number is 01492 860088.

— Glenda Cooper

DAILY POEM

At Lord's
by Francis Thompson

It is little I repair to the matches of the Southron folk,
Though my own red roses there may blow;
It is little I repair to the matches of the Southron folk,
Though the red roses crest the caps, I know.
For the field is full of shades as I near the shadowy coast,
And a ghostly batsman plays to the bowling of a ghost,
And I look through my tears on a soundless-clapping host
As the run-steaders flicker to and fro.
To and fro: —
O my Hornby and my Barlow long ago!

This is our last selection from the new Penguin Book of Victorian Verse, edited by David Karl (Alleo Lane/The Penguin Press, £25). Born in Preston, Francis Thompson studied medicine in Manchester but failed to qualify and, after becoming an opium addict, lived rough on the London streets. He was rescued and encouraged by Alice and Wilfred Meynell, but died of TB in 1907.

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Opera house chiefs blamed for shambles

The Royal Opera House management was yesterday told it did not deserve a penny more of public money until it sorts itself out. At a stormy Commons committee session, David Lister hears its top personnel being accused of incompetence.

The Royal Opera House is in financial crisis, and its chief executive was told yesterday that ROH management had only itself to blame.

In the most severe public dressing down the leaders of a public arts organisation have had in recent years, Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport, said to Mary Allen, chief executive of the ROH: "I think the Arts Council would be nuts to give you an extra penny before you sort yourselves out." The company has received £78m of lottery money and an annual grant of more than £14.5m.

Mr Kaufman also called the decisions by the ROH to have several temporary homes during its two-year exile from Covent Garden "shambolic", and expressed amazement that neither Ms Allen nor two of her most senior colleagues knew who had chosen the Labatt's Apollo in Hammersmith as a venue for the Royal Ballet. Ms Allen had told the committee that the season there had lost £750,000, with attendances as low as 30 per cent of capacity.

Last night, the ROH board was meeting to discuss how to get out of their crisis and were looking at options, including reducing the number of performances and possibly more redundancies

on top of the 222 already made. But Ms Allen told the select committee yesterday that a newspaper report saying cheques had bounced and staff had not been paid was "nonsense". But she did admit: "Financially we are in a crisis." She said the deficit was £4.7m and falling ticket sales had led to further losses.

Mr Kaufman rounded on her saying: "It's a shambles, isn't it. It really is a shambles. The Royal Opera House is wandering around London like the Flying Dutchman, and you come along here and say you need more state money. It doesn't seem to me that you're running this thing efficiently and competently."

He added that he was "bewildered" that Ms Allen, when secretary-general of the Arts Council, had not told her chairman Lord Gower immediately when she was approached by Lord Chadlington, chairman of the ROH, to become its chief executive. She said yesterday that she waited because she felt that the then chief executive, Genista McIntosh would "weather the storm". Ms McIntosh resigned because of ill health.

Mr Kaufman also said he was "amazed" that the ROH then went several months without a chief executive, and in a moment of drama produced a letter to him from Ms McIntosh saying she "had been asked to leave the opera house immediately". This, he said, seemed to conflict with the impression given to the committee that she had chosen to go immediately.

When Ms Allen said that Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, had "given the go-ahead" to a change of chief executive without the normal recruitment procedure, Mr Kaufman interjected that he thought that "was a very, very substantial mistake".

The return of Jarvis Cocker

Jarvis Cocker will be giving his first live performance for more than two years at a charity concert at the Barbican in London today. The singer's band Pulp, which have not been seen since Glastonbury in 1995, will be paying homage to American composer La Monte Young and raising money for his wife and artistic collaborator, Marian Zazezela, who is severely ill and facing mounting hospital bills.

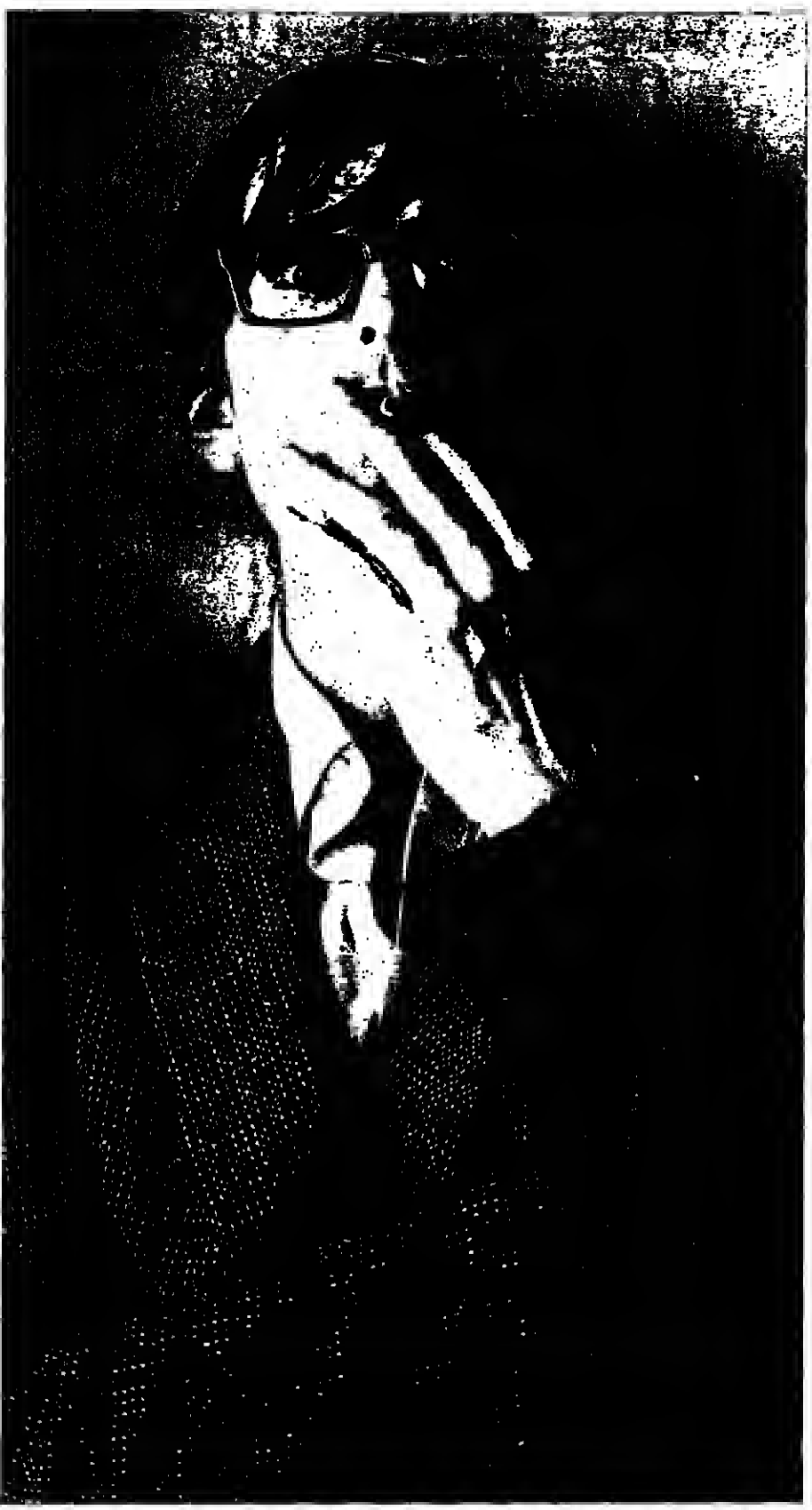
A spokeswoman for Pulp said: "They are appearing in this concert as a one-off before they go on tour next year because they felt it was a good cause. Mark Webber has met La Monte Young a few times and the band has been influenced by his work. That is why they wanted to help."

The influence of La Monte Young, who has been described as "the daddy of us all" and "the godfather of minimalism", has been felt in most major strands of music, pop and classical, since the Sixties.

The group will be premiering songs from their next album, *This is Hardcore*, accompanied by the English Chamber Orchestra. But many other artists, including Nick Cave, rock band Spiritualized and the Gavin Bryars Ensemble, will also be taking part.

Bryn Ormrod, music promotions manager at the Barbican, said: "This is Pulp's first live performance for a very long time. They have not been around much because they have been working on their new album and wanted to take a break." He welcomed the band as part of a new drive to attract a broader audience to the traditionally classical venue, saying they were "prepared to do stuff which is a bit more experimental and interesting".

— Amanda Kelly



Jarvis Cocker: Today's performance ends a two-year absence. Photograph: Herbie Knott

Concern over art bequest ruling

The trustees of the Burrell Collection have lost their fight to insist that the terms of the famous bequest should not be overturned. David Lister predicts that yesterday's decision will have a dramatic impact on art galleries, museums and their donors.

fellow commissioners — Lords Dunrossil, Balfour, Mar and Kellie — had been much influenced by Sir William's intention, clearly expressed in his will, that the council and the trustees should work together in the interests of the collection.

"We hope this co-operation will flourish in the future so that the integrity and well-being of the collection will be maintained and developed in the interests of the people of Glasgow as we believe he would have wished," said Lord Lyell.

Julian Spalding, director of Glasgow Museums, yesterday won his argument that he should be allowed to lend items from the Burrell Collection abroad despite the strict terms of the bequest by Sir William Burrell that this must not happen.

A team of parliamentary commissioners ruled that the terms of the bequest could be overturned. The decision followed a hearing by a Parliamentary Commission headed by five peers. Trustees of the will of the late Sir William Burrell had fought the council's move, saying it went against the terms of his will.

The collection, housed in a £20m building in 300 acres of parkland, has a display of 8,000 works, including antiquities, jades, bronzes, medieval tapestries, and paintings by Cézanne and Rembrandt.

In delivering its decision — a precursor to legislation which would enable overseas lending to go ahead — the Parliamentary Commission said it was prepared to lift the restriction, subject to guarantees.

The peers, headed by Lord Lyell, said they accepted Glasgow's argument that the transport and handling of artworks had greatly improved since the 1940s and 1950s. "We are therefore prepared to allow some easing of Sir William's prohibition on lending, with careful safeguards," said Lord Lyell.

The city had argued that although council-run, the collection was as important as a national collection, most of which suffered no such restriction, and that lending artworks internationally — and receiving foreign loans in return — would enhance the Burrell profile on the world stage.

The lifting of the restriction was also needed to help combat falling attendances at the city's museums, it was argued.

However, yesterday's decision has implications well beyond Glasgow, and donors may now think twice before leaving art treasures to museums.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund, said: "This is distressing news. The future of gifts and bequests to our museums and galleries rests on convincing donors that their wishes will be respected and upheld. The essential bond of trust between donor and recipient has been broken."

Peter Wordie, one of the Burrell trustees, said: "Obviously we are extremely disappointed that Sir William Burrell's wishes have been overruled and we are concerned that this could have deleterious effects on people gifting items or collections in future to museums and galleries."

"It is disappointing, it [the council] broke the key element, which is trust. If you left something to your family and they just ignored what you said, you would not be very happy."

ELECTRICITY NOTICE

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Regulations 3(2) and 4(2)

PART 1

Form Of Application For A Private Electricity Supply Licence or Extension.

1. Full name of applicant: British Gas Trading Limited.

2. Address of the applicant, or in the case of a body corporate, the registered or principal office:
Charter Court, 50 Windsor Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 2HA.

3. Where the applicant is a Company, the full names of the current Directors and the Company's registered number:
Roy Alan Gardner
Michael Richard Alexander
Mark Sydney Clare
Registered number: 3078711

4. Where a holding of 20 per cent or more of the shares of an applicant is held by a body corporate or partnership or an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit, the name(s) and address(es) of the holder(s) of such shares shall be provided:
GB Gas Holding Limited
Charter Court
50 Windsor Road
Slough
Berkshire SL1 2HA.

5. Desired date from which licence is to take effect:
28 November 1997.

6. A sufficient description adequately specifying the nature and situation of the premises intended to be supplied, separately identifying premises within the power bands specified in and to the extent provided by paragraph 7 below:

Any premises with a maximum demand below 100kW in the authorised areas of the following Electricity Supply Companies: Eastern Electricity plc, East Midlands Electricity plc, London Electricity plc, Manweb plc, Midlands Electricity plc, Northern Electric plc, NORWEB plc, SEEBOARD plc, Southern Electric plc, South Wales Electricity plc, South Western Electricity plc, Yorkshire Electricity plc, Scottish Power plc, and Scottish Hydro-Electric plc.

7. Indicate the total number of premises intended to be supplied in each power band as shown in the table below, together with the aggregate energy

forecast to be supplied and the aggregate estimated maximum demand for each power band.

Power Band	Aggregate Number of Premises	Energy Maximum demand (GWh)	(GWh) to be supplied
Not exceeding 0.1 MW	Zero	Zero	Zero

8. A description of the system of electricity lines and electrical plant by means of which the applicant intends to supply electricity, indicating which plant and lines are to be constructed and which are existing plants and lines, and further identifying any parts of that system which will not be owned or otherwise in the possession or control of the applicant:

Supplies are intended to be provided by means of the transmission systems and distribution systems owned by: The National Grid Company plc, Eastern Electricity plc, East Midlands Electricity plc, London Electricity plc, Manweb plc, Midlands Electricity plc, Northern Electric plc, NORWEB plc, SEEBOARD plc, Southern Electric plc, South Wales Electricity plc, South West Electricity plc, Yorkshire Electricity plc, Scottish Power plc, and Scottish Hydro-Electric plc. The applicant, at this moment in time, does not propose to own any electric lines — but wishes to reserve the right to do so.

9. A statement of the extent (if any) to which the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence for which it is applying:

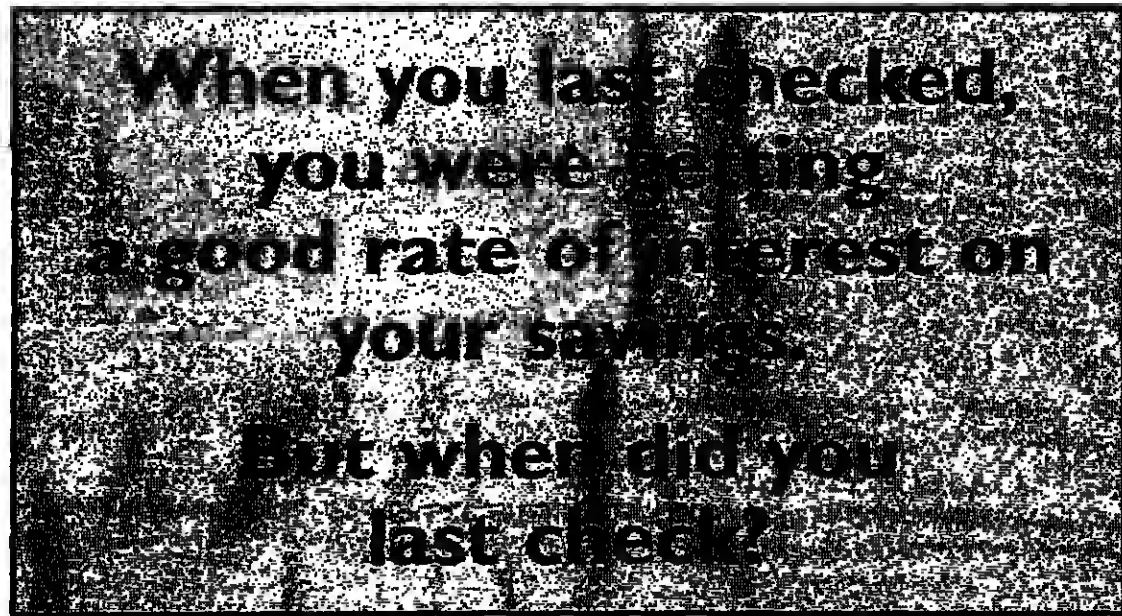
To be able to facilitate the supply of electricity to the customer types outlined in Paragraph 6 the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence.

10. Details of any licences held, applied for or being applied for by the applicant in respect of the generation, transmission or supply of electricity:

Second Tier Licence to Supply Electricity in England and Wales.

Second Tier Licence to Supply Electricity in Scotland.

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Straw plans 'flexible' anti-terror laws

The Government yesterday announced plans for permanent laws to tackle terrorism. Michael Streeter and Colin Brown explain this means the suspension of powers to exclude Irish terror suspects from Britain.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said the Prevention of Terrorism Act would be renewed again next year - as it has been since 1974 - but consultation would also begin next year on a new United Kingdom-based law able to deal "flexibly" with threats against the state. Mr Straw suggested the new legislation will include a review by judges for terrorist suspects held for more than 48 hours. Police can currently detain such suspects for up to five extra days. No decision has been made on whether to cut this period. The new laws are also likely to include measures to restrict the ability of terrorist groups to raise funds in Britain. Mr Straw, flanked by the Secretary of State for Northern

Ireland, Mo Mowlam, in the Commons, denied they claims that the proposals followed "representations" from the Irish government or from Sinn Féin. However, the measures were widely seen at Westminster as confidence-building concessions to Sinn Féin to sustain the IRA ceasefire.

Ms Mowlam has raised suspicions that some of her own civil servants are leaking from within Stormont in Belfast to destabilise the peace process. "If they wanted to make life difficult for me, they would go for me. But what's been leaked destabilises the process rather than me. But we'll keep going. Ninety-nine per cent are on side," she says in an interview published in the *New Statesman*. She says a damaging leak occurred over the ministerial opinion papers which inflamed the crisis before the Loyalists' Drumcree march in the summer. It had implied that allowing it go ahead was the least difficult option, but it was also damaging for her relations with her civil servants, she adds. "You get wary. You've got ideas where it's coming from, so it could be anyone you are dealing with."

"The leaks unnerve you because you get to a point when you say, 'This machine isn't working together. We're chugging along'. And then there is another leak."

Meanwhile, Mr Straw revealed he has revoked the last 12 exclusion orders in place under the PTA and said the power to exclude under the act would be suspended from next March. Use of such orders has declined, even during times of IRA activity. He also confirmed his opposition to internment.

The changes come after a report by Lord Lloyd of Berwick last year called for anti-terrorist measures to be combined in a single, permanent UK-wide act.

Mr Straw said the Government maintained its tough stance and would "never drop its guard in the fight against terrorism", but said the permanent laws were needed to give the necessary strength and flexibility as terrorists around the world altered their tactics.

John Wadham, director of human-rights campaign group Liberty, welcomed the end to exclusion orders but was "alarmed" at the prospect of permanent powers.



Meeting Russia: Postgraduate students at Leningrad University taken in 1954 by Fred Jarvis while leading a National Union of Students' delegation. An exhibition of photographs by the former leader of the National Union of Teachers opens at the TUC centre in London from 3-12 November

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Labour MP lashes out at colleagues over Serb slur

Bob Wareing, the Labour MP who failed to register an interest in a company with former Serbian links, launched a stinging attack on party colleagues yesterday as he was suspended from the House for a week. The MP for Liverpool West Derby claimed his colleagues had tried to make "a scandal out of an oversight" after an anonymous letter about him was sent in the Labour chief whip, Nick Brown. "There was never any intention of concealment on my part. I received no financial benefit of any kind," he said. Mr Brown kept the letter for almost three weeks and only mentioned it in Mr Wareing's

day before he was suspended from the Parliamentary party. Although the chief whip promised to contact him again he over did, Mr Wareing claimed. Mr Wareing said he had been in "a state of great shock" when a party "apparatchick", David Hill, drafted a statement which he felt obliged to sign. "I understand now how confessions are forced from people," he said. Mr Brown added his own allegations to those in the letter, Mr Wareing claimed. He had said the MP had avoided income taxes on the £6,000 his company received through his unregistered interest, when in fact there had been no need to pay

any. Worse, though, was a claim that he had a covert relationship with a company believed to be a front for Serbs whose leaders were wanted for war crimes. That was "a disgraceful allegation" and was dismissed by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, he said. Sir Gordon's report showed that the company had cut its links with Serbia before Mr Wareing became involved. "Allegations were invented and added to those in the anonymous letter, covered by privilege and given currency. I trust that that will never happen again," he added.

— Fran Abrams

Heseltine calls on Tories to fight Hague's Euro-phobia

Michael Heseltine yesterday delivered a devastating call to arms for pro-Europeans in the Tory Party to stand and fight against William Hague's leadership on EMU. This is an edited extract of his interview on the BBC 'Today' programme with John Humphrys.

Mr Heseltine: "Let me put to you the real danger which I think the Shadow Cabinet position has exposed. You can see that at the next election you might have a Tory Party fighting Britain's major companies over the issue of Europe. Now I don't understand how a Shadow Cabinet can seriously think that the interests of a Conservative Party are to be found in fighting Britain's leading companies, who basically know that they are European, that we have to be part of this process, and it's in our self-interest to do so."

"We must be free now (to campaign for a Yes vote in a

referendum) and that is precisely what I think we should do. Keo Clarke has said it and I believe he is right."

John Humphrys: "We've got William Hague effectively ruling out membership of a single European currency, if he has the choice, for two years?"

Mr Heseltine: "Yes - well, I mean you can't, in the national interest do that. Let's be absolutely clear. There's going to be a single currency. Short of nuclear war or some event of that scale, the Europeans are going to do it."

"The only issue is when Britain joins, because joio we will. And the longer we delay, the longer we fail to tell the British people the truth about Britain's relationship with Europe, the more damage we do to our national self-interest and someone has got to lance this boil. I think that what is needed now, as Keo Clarke has said, is a coming together

of all those forces in this country who believe that Britain's self-interest lies in influencing Europe our way, and we should start fighting to influence public opinion."

Mr Heseltine: "The Conservative Party, like all parties, is split on this issue and it's going to remain split, so there's no point in trying to hide that. It's self-evident."

"But the Labour Party is split just as much and there is therefore this gap in national self-interest... We're making the same mistakes over Europe we made on Messina where we didn't sign the treaty of Rome, we complained ever after that we'd been left out and things was working against us, and when we joined we didn't like the rules. It was our fault we didn't join. Mrs Thatcher - she didn't want the single market, she made a great noise about the difficulties of legislation for this sort of thing."

New power base for Clarke

A Tory group called Conservative Mainstream emerged yesterday as a power base for Kenneth Clarke to lead the fightback against William Hague over monetary union. Michael Heseltine is chairman of the board of the Tory group, based at Abbey Orchard Street, a Westminster office where Mr Clarke had his leadership campaign headquarters when he ran against Mr Hague.

Conservative Mainstream is an umbrella organisation for two groups which are going to play a crucial part in the battle - the Tory Reform Group (TRG) and Parliamentary Mainstream. Mr Clarke recently took over the presi-

dency of the TRG from Lord (David) Hunt. It is a traditional home for the pro-European "wets" once led by Peter Walker. Its patrons include Mr Heseltine.

Parliamentary Mainstream is chaired by Tony Baldry, and its vice-chairmen include Michael Mates, one of Mr Heseltine's recruiting sergeants during his leadership bid. Peter Temple-Morris, who announced yesterday that he had been on the brink of defecting to Labour, is among its members.

Mr Temple-Morris was the leading light behind the Maelod group, an earlier left-of-centre organisation, which was formally wound

up on Tuesday and absorbed in Parliamentary Mainstream. Tory Euro-sceptics yesterday claimed that Mr Clarke is also preparing for a possible leadership challenge. "Clarke thinks Hague cannot last a term and he's getting his organisation in place for when he falls," one said.

A Conservative source confirmed that the TRG and Parliamentary Mainstream would be playing a key role in the battle over the Europe, but he said Conservative Mainstream was not a policy organisation. "We coordinate the activities of the two other groups, who will be responsible for developing policy."

— Colin Brown

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Welsh sheep put the bite on American rattlesnakes



Penning a cure: Some of the Welsh sheep that have been used to develop a £14m remedy for rattlesnake bite Photograph: Philip Rees/Dragon News

People bitten by a rattlesnake in America will in future have cause to thank this bunch of Welsh sheep: they're all immune to its toxin, and their antibodies save lives. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains how a British scientist had a moneyspinning brainwave.

Why have a Welsh sheep immunised against American rattlesnake bites? Because their blood is worth millions - especially when it is purified to extract the antidote to the snake's deadly poison.

This flock of sheep, in Carmarthen, has earned its owners, Therapeutic Antibodies, £14m following a deal made this week with an American company.

With 8,000 people bitten every year in the US by rattlesnakes, the antivenin substance extracted monthly from the sheep could be a lifesaver.

The method does not use genetic engineering or modern techniques: instead it uses a sys-

tem discovered a century ago, by which an animal is injected with progressively larger amounts of venom, to which it produces antibodies in its blood. Originally, horses were the favoured host because they were plentiful.

Snake venom is a foreign protein to the body, targeted at nerve functions (to trigger heart attacks) or blood disorders (such as uncontrolled bleeding). The antivenin works by harnessing the immune system to recognise and destroy the foreign protein before it can complete its work.

However, the extracted horse antibodies could provoke adverse reactions in about 40 per cent of patients. The treatment could be worse than the cure: some patients have died, which left doctors reluctant to use the antidote.

But Professor John Landon, of St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, realised that sheep antibodies do not provoke the same reaction in humans, and got the hospital's research company, Therapeutic Antibodies, to start a sheep antivenin programme.

Professor Landon reckons the chance of an allergic reaction now is 1 per cent or less.

"It wasn't a big enough market for a pharmaceuticals company, so we were able to get that niche," he said yesterday.

Each species of poisonous snake has its own brand of venom, so the Carmarthen sheep are being used to produce antivenins for many different species.

These are then sent all round the world: to Nigeria, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and the US.

The next step, he says, will be to start using hens as the antivenin producers instead of sheep.

"They produce about the same amount of antibodies in a year as the sheep, but it goes into the eggs too, so it's easier to collect," he explains.

Nor is the company limiting itself to snake antivenins. "Venoms are only the most immediate thing," Professor Landon said.

"We can raise antibodies against pretty much anything: mushroom poison, tricyclic antidepressants - which are predominantly used in suicide attempts - or even natural proteins like tumour necrosis factor which is manufactured to excess in some diseases."

Britain to press for EU ban on use of drift nets

Thousands of dolphins are killed by drift nets, now Britain has taken the initiative to outlaw their use by fishermen. Kim Sengupta looks at what led to the proposed banning.

It was a move which could hardly fail to be popular, and the fisheries minister, Elliot Morley, must feel sure that his initiative to ban the "walls of death" drift nets will be adopted by the European Union.

An EU proposal to outlaw drift nets has been on the books since 1994, and there is strong backing from environmental groups across the Continent. Spain, the EU's largest fishing nation, has long pressed for a ban, and Italian fishermen ended their use after receiving compensation.

Mr Morley will be using the United Kingdom's impending presidency of the EU to press for a ban. He said yesterday: "There is deep concern about the use of the drift nets on environmental and welfare grounds and these are backed by scientific studies."

"Ministry funded research has demonstrated there are large catches of dolphins and other non-target species. The UK has some fishermen using drift nets and the interests of all fishermen participating in the fishery need to be taken into account. But we have concluded that it is time to act to phase out the use of drift nets on the high seas."

He said he had instructed officials to meet the European Commission "to discuss the best way of taking this forward".

The drift nets are used by British, French and Irish fishermen to catch tuna in the Atlantic, mainly concentrated around the Bay of Biscay. Casualties every year have included sharks, and smaller whales as well as dolphins.

The use of the nets triggered a fish war in the Bay of Biscay in 1994 in which Cornish boats had their nets cut away by Spanish vessels. The Spaniards were protesting against a glut of tuna depressing prices. They use poles and lines with hooks for tuna, but their average catch was five times less than that gathered by nets.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food stated that a study by the Sea

Mammal Research Unit estimated that in 1995 British drift nets killed 100 striped and 60 common dolphins, representing about one kill per 200 tuna caught. When the results were scaled up to include all the European boats then about 1,500 dolphins are likely to have been killed. A French study in 1993 estimated that about 1,600 dolphins were killed by their fleet that year.

Yesterday the RSPCA welcomed the Government's pledge to support the ban. Helen McLachlan, the society's marine wildlife expert, said: "This is a great achievement, both in terms of conservation and animal welfare."

However, the move has caused concern to Cornish fishermen who invested £30,000 in monofilament drift nets. British vessels use nets fitted with escape "doors" intended to allow dolphins and sharks to escape, but Mr Morley and his advisers do not accept that is enough of a safeguard.

Mike Townsend, chairman of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said the body will be seeking compensation for fishermen who had invested in the nets.

Sea fishing banned near Dounreay nuclear plant

The Government has banned fishing near the Dounreay nuclear establishment on the north coast of Scotland, following the discovery of fragments of irradiated fuel in offshore sediments.

The Scottish Office said the ban had been imposed as a precautionary measure to ensure that no nuclear contamination entered the human food chain.

There is no large-scale commercial fishing in the area. But fishermen were reconciled to the fact that although the order would cause economic hardship, opposition to it would be seen as irresponsible and self-defeating. Boat crews said they hoped the ban would be short-lived.

The Government took its decision following scientific advice by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) following an offshore survey by the UK Atomic Energy Authority which runs Dounreay. The Scottish Office spokesman stated: "This action is being taken as a precautionary measure pending a full and detailed review of the situation by the National Radiological Protection Board and Sepa".



Greenpeace welcomed the move and said the case illustrated the dangers of nuclear reprocessing. Scientist Dr Helen Wallace said: "The proposed exclusion zone is yet further recognition that nuclear reprocessing pollutes the environment, contaminates fish and shellfish, and threatens human health."

"But the world's three big reprocessing plants, at Dounreay, Sellafield, and La Hague in France are all still pouring deadly waste into Britain's seas. It's time this madness stopped."

The fishing ban came into force on Wednesday night. A member of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation said: "Obviously we would not like to

see anyone taking fish from around here facing any danger. It is a delicate matter, and we must balance commercial considerations with concern for health. We do of course expect the Government to lift the ban once they decide there is no chance of human contamination."

Fishermen's organisations have held informal talks with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food about the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield as well. An official for the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations said they were purely to exchange ideas and ensure the safety of the public remained paramount.

— Kim Sengupta

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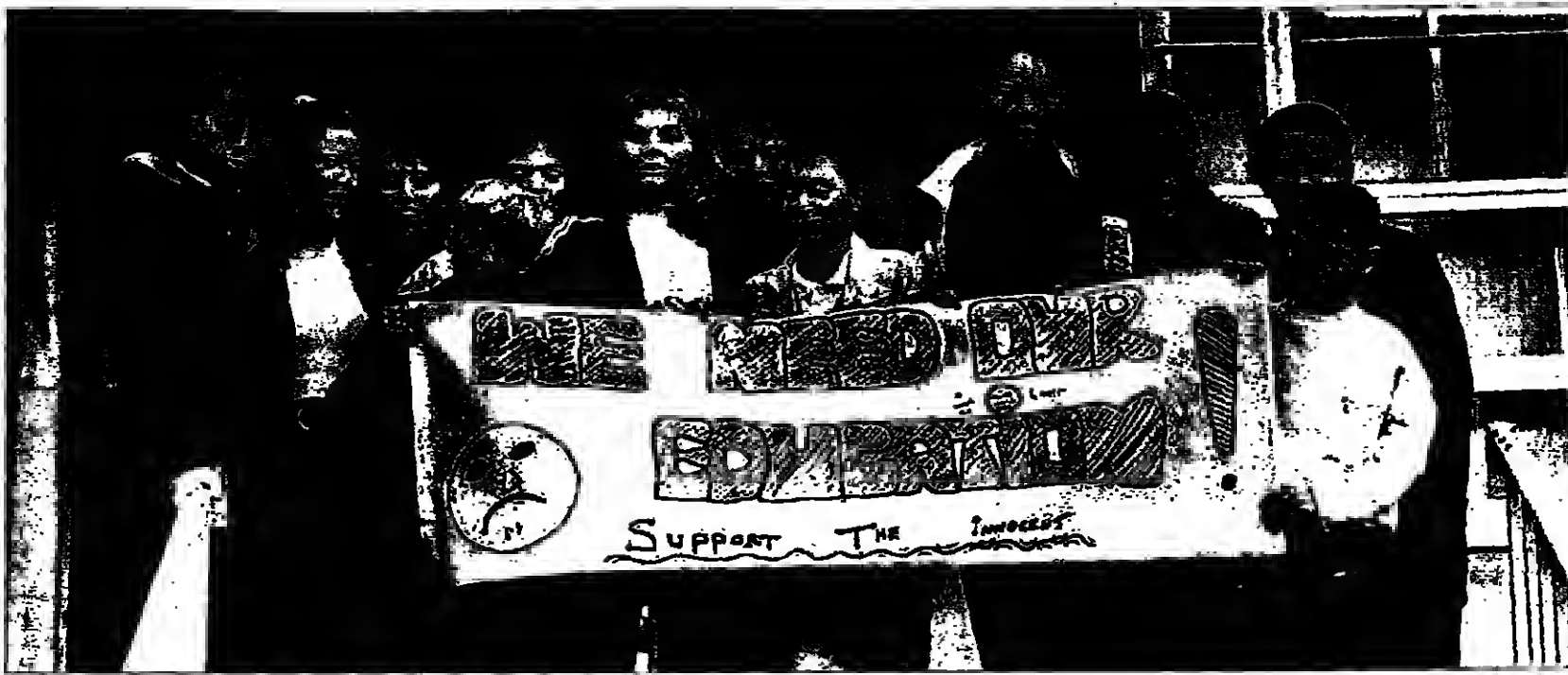
New guidelines aim to halt rise in school exclusions

The number of children permanently excluded from school is still rising, according to government figures released yesterday. Now, says Lucy Ward, Education Correspondent, local councils are being given new guidance to help tackle behaviour problems.

Permanent exclusions from schools in England rose to 12,500 in 1995-6, an increase of 13 per cent on the previous year.

The rise is significantly higher in primary schools than secondaries, underlining fears raised by teachers' unions that children are increasingly displaying difficult behaviour at a younger age. The number of permanent exclusions in primaries has risen by 18 per cent to 1,600, compared with a 12 per cent increase in secondary schools, which account for 83 per cent of all exclusions.

The Government marked the latest figures by publishing new, draft guidance to local education authorities on helping schools address behaviour problems. However, the advice will not satisfy some teachers' leaders who blame the exclusions rise on the policy of educating children with behaviour difficulties in ordinary schools where possible. The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, which, a year ago, led protests at pupil behaviour at the Ridings school in Halifax, renewed calls for more difficult pupils



Does disruption demand exclusion? Pupils at the Ridings school contribute to the debate over provision for problematic classmates. Photograph: PA

to be taught in special schools.

The demand directly conflicts with the government's desire, outlined last week, to see more children with special education needs integrated into mainstream schools.

Unions also claim exam league tables add to the pressure on schools to exclude problem children.

Estelle Morris, Schools minister, yes-

terday described the latest exclusion figure as "worryingly high". She said that although there would always be cases where headteachers had little option but to exclude a pupil, variations in the exclusion rates between schools suggested some schools were too ready to exclude.

"While schools still need the ultimate sanction of dealing with exclusion, LEAs and schools must look at all the options

for dealing with behaviour problems", she added.

Under the new guidance, based on provisions in the Education Act passed earlier this year, authorities will have to draw up behaviour support plans.

The guidelines, published for consultation yesterday, say these plans should cover support to schools in managing pupil behaviour, with the aim of preventing ex-

clusions and truancy, provision available outside mainstream schools for pupils with behavioural problems and arrangements for supporting the education of excluded pupils.

LEAs would have to consult widely with local headteachers, social services departments and health authorities in preparing their plans, Ms Morris said. Each authority would be obliged to set targets indicat-

ing plans to bring down exclusion levels.

The Local Government Association yesterday said the new plans would be "a vital tool" in stemming the flood of exclusions. Graham Lane, the LGA education chairman, said: "Instead of consigning children to the scrap heap, schools must be supported by LEAs in finding ways of dealing with behavioural problems and giving children a second chance."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, blamed a withdrawal of support by LEAs, for schools dealing with difficult children, for the exclusions rise. With the right support for teachers, pupils with behaviour problems could be accommodated in mainstream schools, he said.

However, Nigel De Gruchy, the NASUWT general secretary, insisted that only removing more disruptive children from ordinary schools would halt the rise in exclusions. "Normal human beings just cannot cope with some of the problems that some of these children bring", he said.

Don Foster, Liberal Democrat education spokesman, called for schools to pay towards the education of children they excluded while they still received funding for them.

Hit squad tells Hackney to appoint education chief

A falling London council was yesterday given two weeks to scrap its "fancy and trendy management structure" and appoint a director of education. Lucy Ward explains that Hackney stands accused of putting structures before standards.

The Government "hit squad" sent into Hackney local education authority last month yesterday pre-empted its own reporting deadline to recommend urgent action to halt further decline.

If the north-east London authority did not take immediate steps to fill the post of education director - vacant for almost two years - officials warned, they would ask the Secretary of State for Education, David Blunkett, to intervene.

Mr Blunkett has emergency powers to step in and give directions to an education authority.

The "improvement team", called in after an emergency inspection by the schools watch-

dog Ofsted found its education service was "in disarray", was not due to produce its first interim report until January.

However, the chairman, Richard Paoletti, yesterday called for urgent action after early findings revealed continuing decline, inadequate leadership and low morale and frustration among staff.

The four-strong team recommends immediate moves to establish a new management structure to run education in Hackney after concluding the current system, created over the past year, is incapable of tackling the immediate crisis in education in the borough.

Under the existing structure, Hackney has no overall director of education and its education service comes under the control of two service directors, in charge of schools and learning and leisure.

Creating and promoting the new structure has "distracted senior officers and members from tackling the crisis in education", according to the improvement team. Its report adds: "We have no confidence that the new structure in Hackney will rapidly move to a co-

ordinated and efficient education service."

The improvement team is recommending a traditional management structure typically used by education authorities, in which one executive director has overall responsibility for education, supported by four directors each responsible for a single key area.

Hackney has filled only one of the five new posts, and the team proposes immediate steps to advertise the rest nationally, with the £85,000 executive director's post as top priority. Headteachers should be given a say in the recruitment process, it says.

The "hit squad" also identified failings among the elected members on the council, which has a history of political turmoil and is now hung after a split in the Labour group. Councillors failed to provide effective political leadership and some members interfered excessively in day-to-day issues, the team found. When the team asked elected members why they could not work together for the good of the education service they were told this was "not possible in the culture of Hackney".

Rise in retirements fuels fears of teacher shortage

A Commons committee will next week advise ministers to consider a range of measures to encourage teachers to stay in the profession, it emerged yesterday as new figures showed early retirements are continuing to rise.

Just over 1,000 more teachers under the official retirement age of 60 retired in September this year compared with last, according to Department for Education and Employment statistics obtained by Liberal Democrat education spokesman Don Foster.

The increase came despite a change in retirement rules introduced last August which means that teachers are no longer able to leave on full pension as soon as they pass 50.

The figures, described by Mr Foster as evidence of a teacher shortage "timebomb", were published as details emerged of recommendations in a report on teacher supply to be published on Monday by the Commons Education and Employment Select Committee.

The report will advise the Government to examine a series of incentives, to be adopted in whole or part, to

persuade teachers to stay in the classroom in the face of a growing recruitment crisis.

The proposals include offering staff "golden handcliffs", in which they might have teacher training costs or other education debts paid off in return for a commitment to stay at a school for a fixed number of years. A similar scheme is already available for science teachers.

The committee, which heard evidence last month from the Teacher Training Agency (TTA) and teacher unions, will also recommend steps to raise the status of teaching in order to attract more graduates.

Figures obtained by Mr Foster show 8,920 teachers retired early last month compared with 7,880 in September 1996. A "long, hard look" was needed to examine why more teachers were still leaving the job early, despite pension disincentives, he said. "Coupled with a teacher recruitment shortage these figures are evidence of a timebomb, a lack of teachers for future generations."

The TTA launched a £1.5m advertising campaign earlier this month to attract

more graduates to teaching amid growing concern over recruitment, particularly in maths and science subjects.

At the end of August, there were 1,433 graduates applying to teach maths in secondary schools, compared with 2,246 in 1994. For science, there were fewer than 3,000 applications compared with 4,000 in 1994.

Student leaders planning a national day of protest tomorrow against tuition fees are threatening to "out" MPs who vote in favour of fees to all student voters at the next general election.

The National Union of Students, which opposes Government plans for £1,000-a-year means tested tuition fees for students, yesterday claimed its "timebomb campaign" would keep the issue of fees alive, "unlike the hopes of a university education for many would-be students".

Demonstrations will take place tomorrow in 14 cities. But the NUS national leadership has infuriated many local members by refusing to hold a single national protest in London, allegedly through reluctance to embarrass the Government. — Lucy Ward

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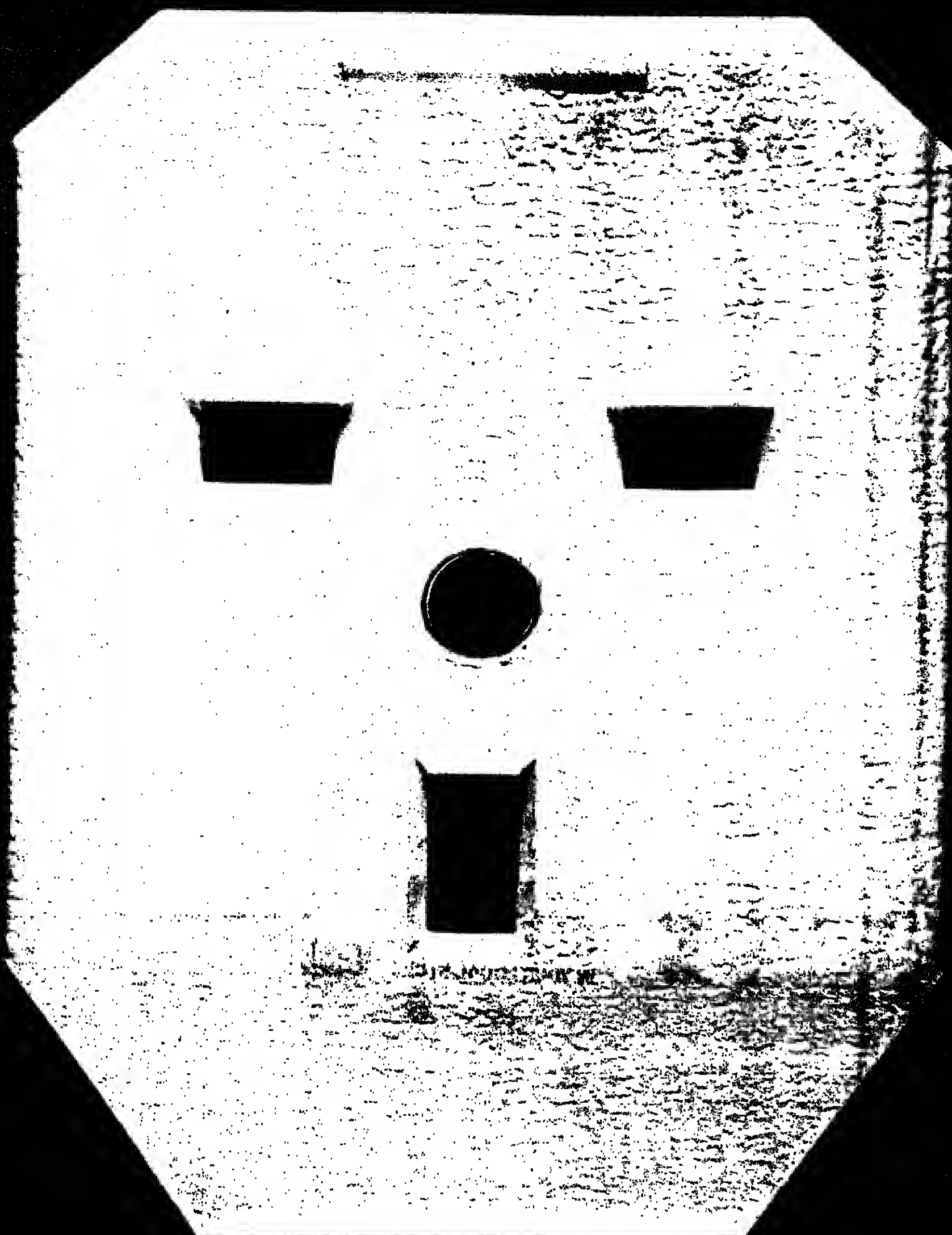
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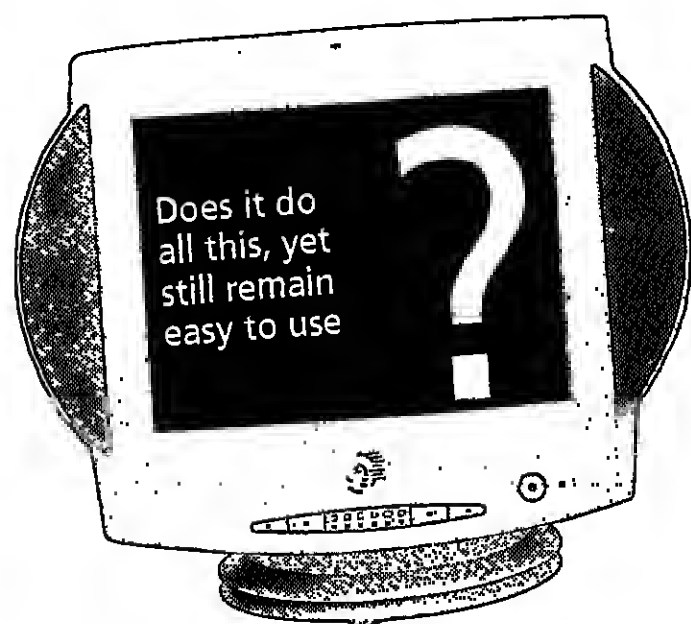
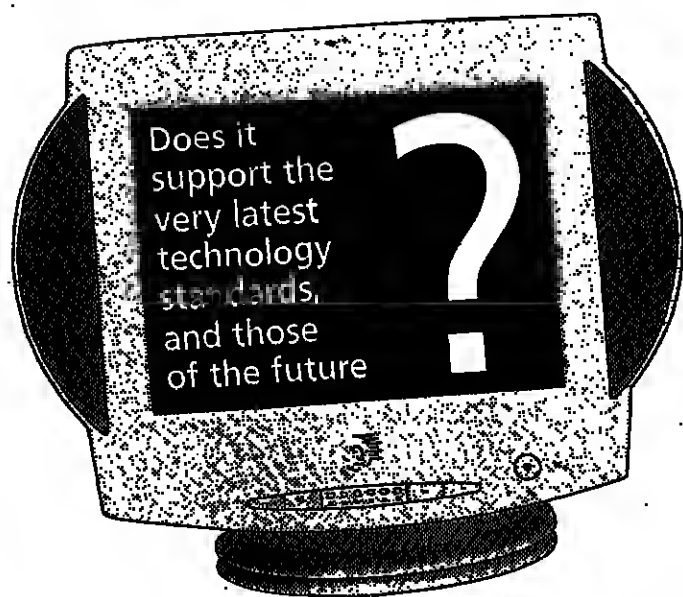
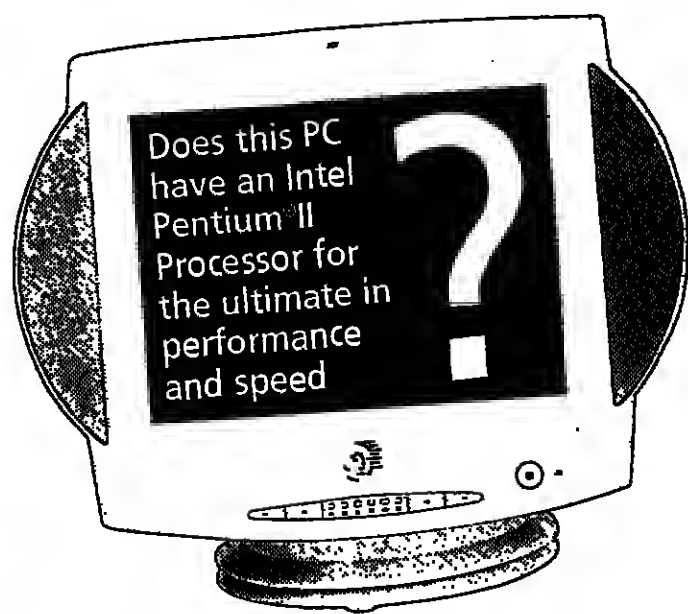
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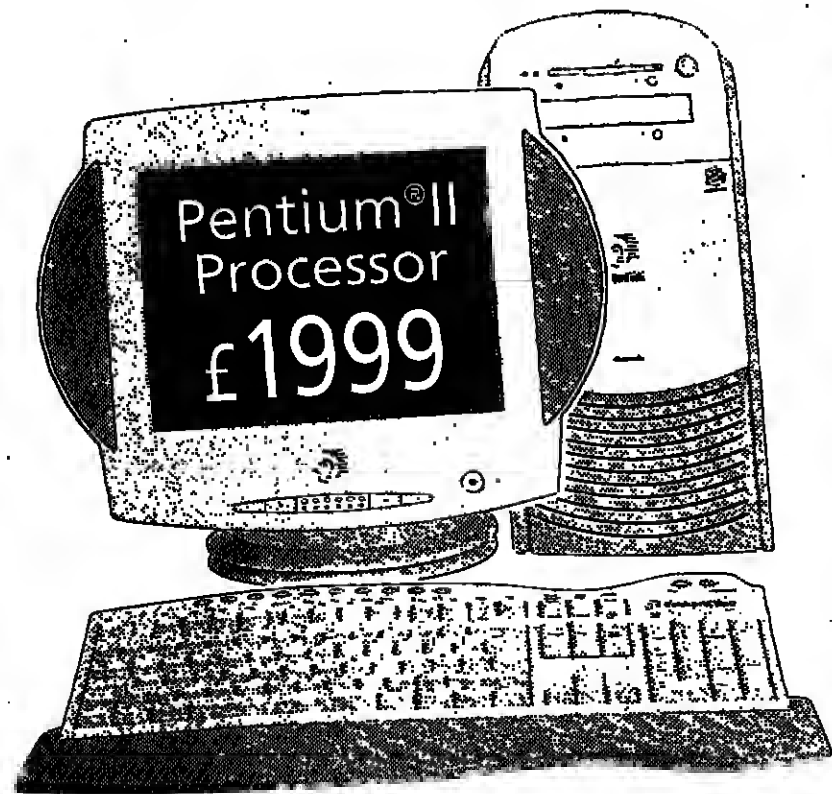
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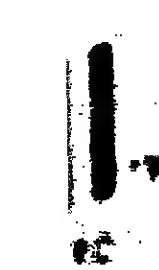
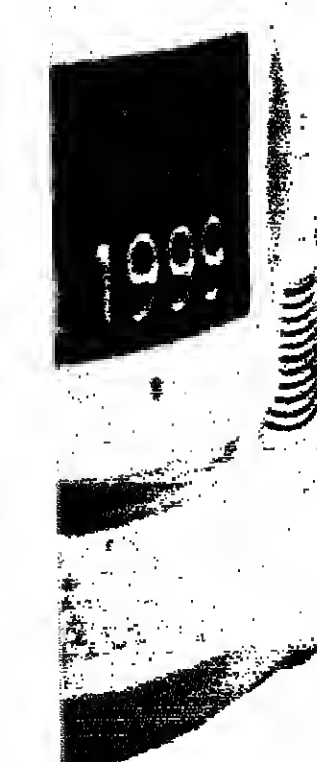
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13/FOOTBALL

THE INDEPENDENT
FRIDAY
31 OCTOBER 1999

Plan to kick gambling out of touch

There is a widespread culture of gambling on the outcome of football matches by those in the game, managers and others close to the English game, the Football Association concluded yesterday. Nick Harris examines how the sport's authorities are planning to eradicate it.

Gambling on football matches by those in the game - other than via the pools - has been prohibited by the FA since the end of the last century. Yesterday's report by the FA concluded, however, that there is widespread ignorance of the rules, and that more needed to be done both to educate professional footballers about the regulations and to discipline those who ignore them.

Sir John Smith, a former deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan police who is now a security consultant to the FA, described the existing rules as adequate, but added: "Widespread betting by players and others in the game is damaging to the integrity of professional football. It has the potential for, and can be seen as, creating a serious distraction from the underlying principle of any sport, namely, playing to win."

Although his report found no evidence of corruption, he

concluded that betting does create the potential for malpractice and indicated it may be going on undiscovered. "If there is a potential for something to exist, it almost certainly does," he said.

The report noted a particular increase in "spread betting", which allows a complex range of options, and could allow information from inside the game to aid what was effectively "insider trading".

The investigation was commissioned by the FA in the aftermath of the high-profile "match-fixing" trial, which concluded earlier this year with the acquittal of four men on charges of corruptly accepting money to influence the outcome of matches. Two of those involved - Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers - have subsequently been charged with misconduct under FA rules and face a disciplinary hearing on 11 December.

David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said the FA will now implement Sir John's main recommendations in an attempt completely to eradicate gambling within football. The FA would use its full range of disciplinary measures to prevent any player, manager, director or other official from gambling on football - including fining, suspending or even banning offenders.

He added, however, that the FA "is not a police force," and it would require the co-operation of everyone involved.

Clubs urged to fight anti-Asian bias on the pitch



Asians have yet to join top class clubs like Chelsea's Michael Duberry. Photograph: Rui Xavier

A new initiative aimed at fighting racism in football was launched yesterday. Steve Beggan found that attitudes are improving but there is a long way to go before racial abuse is stamped out.

"Here," said the white football fan as he urinated through the nets and on to the goalmouth guarded by Idris Patel. "Dive on that."

The supporters with their pitbull terriers thought that was very funny. Most hilarious, though was the joker who felled another Bari FC Asian player with the quip: "What you doing down there? Praying to Allah for a goal?"

It was a particularly bad match for Bari in an East London Sunday League, but yesterday it highlighted the problems facing young black and Asian footballers and the football authorities who want to stamp out such behaviour.

Much has been done since 1993 when the Commission for Racial Equality, the Premiership, Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association joined forces to launch Let's Kick Racism Out of Football. But many football grounds are still a haven for foul-mouthed racists.

Yesterday, the focus moved from black players to Asians, none of whom have broken into top class football, primarily because many fall by the wayside under a barrage of racism.

The latest initiative, launched by Chris Smith, the

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, will take the message to hundreds of schools in the form of a play about an Asian professional and the racism he faces.

During one scene from *Ooh Ah Showab Khan*, performed at Highbury, the north London home of Arsenal FC, the young Showab runs up to his PE teacher and says: "I want to be in the team." The response brought a ripple of recognition from the Asians present. "No lad," says the PE teacher. "Cricket season's next term."

Chris Smith said: "This is not just about football but football is especially important in making sure that we combat racism in society. If we can achieve our objective of eliminating racism from football, then we will have gone a long way to transforming society at large."

HEDGING YOUR BETS

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Place a £10 spread bet with a firm like City Index on where the stock market is going to be in a few weeks' time and the profit or loss can run into thousands. Moreover, while bets with bookmakers are not enforceable by law, spread bets are. Try to wench on a spread bet and you will end up in court.

In football, spread betting on the numbers of points a side will accumulate in its division is very popular. City Index offers a spread of 73-75 on the number of points Manchester United will gain this season in the Premiership. Index firms also offer spreads on shirt numbers - the aggregate achieved by adding up the shirt numbers of all the players who score in a particular game.

Spread betting is the form of gambling favoured by city dealers. It involves the bookmaker quoting a midpoint in any quantifiable index and gambling on which way that index will move as with, for example, the ups and downs of the FTSE100.

— Ian Davies

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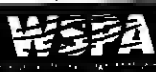
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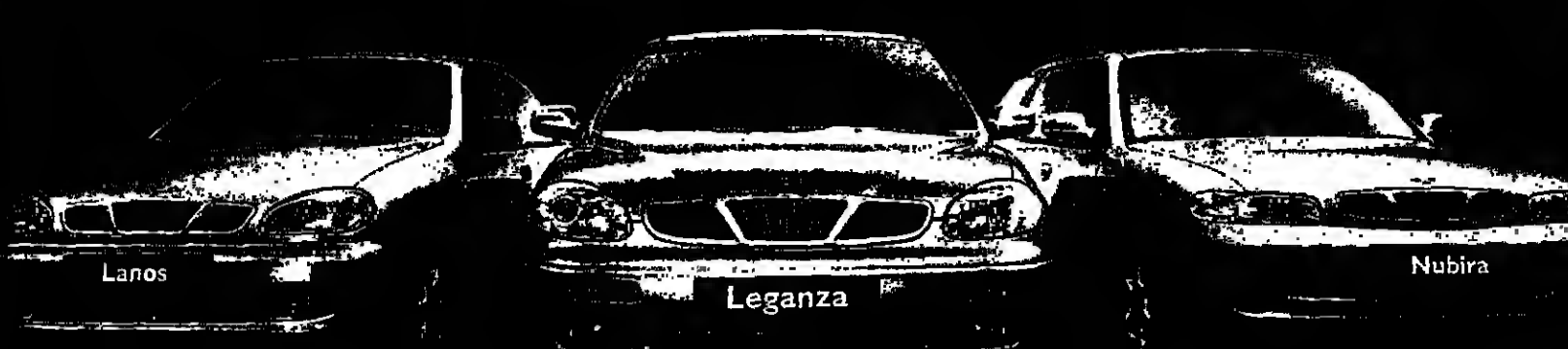
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Turks accuse Kohl of fanning flames of hatred

Chancellor Kohl has angered Germany's large ethnic Turkish community and sections of his own governing coalition by opposing changes in the country's rigid nationality laws. Rupert Cornwell says the dispute goes to the heart of Germany's sense of itself.

In blunt language, Hakkı Keskin, chief spokesman of the Turkish community in Germany, accused the Chancellor of stoking anti-Turkish prejudice by ruling out changes in the law barring Germans from holding a second nationality.

It was, Mr Keskin charged, "absolutely incomprehensible" that the Mr Kohl had set his face against dual citizenship, a practice admitted by almost every other country in Europe. In doing so, he had dealt a blow to racial integration, and was "re-inforcing prejudice" against about 2.2 million Turks resident in Germany.

The cause of the trouble was the Chancellor's weekend speech in which he warned his Christian Democrat (CDU) youth movement that millions more Turks would flood into Germany if the citizenship law was relaxed.

Once, the Turkish and other "Gastarbeiter" who poured into Germany to help

fuel post-war reconstruction and the economic miracle of the 1950s and 1960s, knew their place. But the "guest workers" have become permanent residents with children born in Germany. They want to be German citizens, too.

Germany long had some of the least restrictive immigration and asylum laws in Europe. But alone among big Western countries, it ties nationality to blood under a law dating back to 1913. Thus, while Turks find it so hard to acquire German nationality, Volga Germans whose ancestors settled in Russia in the 18th century receive citizenship automatically, should they return to the country.

Germany refuses to allow dual nationality, which means that since they cannot unilaterally renounce Turkish citizenship, many Turks in Germany find themselves in an insoluble "Catch-22".

This is the problem the Turkish community, the FDP junior partners in Mr Kohl's centre-right coalition, and a small minority of the CDU want to resolve, by allowing dual citizenship to the children of permanently resident foreigners until they were 18. At that point they would choose which nationality they wanted to keep.

But liberalisation runs into the fear of being swamped by foreigners, off which far-right hate groups feed. Already, immigrants make up 9 per cent of the population. Given the low German birthrate, this figure is set to go higher still.



Hallowe'en smile: One of the 8,000 pumpkins laid yesterday in the gardens of the Trocadero, beneath the Eiffel Tower in Paris, as a seasonal stunt by the telecommunications company France Telecom
Photograph: AFP

Ariane's launch a success

The new Ariane 5 rocket blasted off yesterday - after months of delays caused by technical glitches - in a launch seen as crucial to restoring confidence after the maiden effort ended in disaster last year.

The successful launch from Kourou, French Guiana, was a relief for European space officials, who are hoping the new rocket will seal their lead in the commercial satellite-launching market. The 13-nation European Space Agency, with its commercial partner Arianespace, has a proven track record of launching satellites, but its 100th launch last month. But with Ariane 4, which marked its 100th launch last month, ended in an explosion just 37 seconds after lift-off. — Reuters

Vatican tackles Holocaust

A symposium on the Christian roots of anti-Semitism began at the Vatican as a leading Jewish group called on the Holy See to open up its files on the Holocaust period. The three-day symposium, taking place behind closed doors, was being attended by 60 leading Catholic theologians and representatives from Protestant and Orthodox Christianity. — AP

Strike paralyzes Lille

Angered by violent attacks, public transport workers paralysed Lille with a wildcat strike yesterday to demand better protection.

"The last straw was when someone threw a firebomb at a bus on Wednesday night," said Alain Chuffart, a delegate of the Communist-led General Labour Federation (CGT) union.

The walkout caught commuters off-guard, scrambling for taxis and driving to work, causing traffic jams in this industrial northern French city of 950,000.

The authorities promised police reinforcements on transit routes, and unions said their bus, underground and tram workers would be back on the job today. — AP, Lille

Sick Havel cancels trip

Czech President Vaclav Havel yesterday postponed next week's planned visit to Britain after contracting a viral infection. Mr Havel, who last year underwent lung surgery for removal of a small malignant tumour, was being treated for an infection connected to his chronic bronchitis. Mr Havel had been expected to discuss with Tony Blair the influx of Czech gypsies seeking asylum in Britain. — Reuters, Prague

Russia keeps watch on Caspian oil flow to the West

The reopening of a pipeline closed during Russia's conflict with Chechnya is allowing oil to flow to the West from the Caspian Sea again. But Goyane Afrikian says there are unsolved problems with the exploitation of Azerbaijan's vast oil reserves.

Oil from one of the world's last great known reserves has begun flowing out of the Caspian Sea region, through Russia, to the West. The reopening of the pipeline by the Azeri state company Socar is a major advance for the international consortium which is developing Azerbaijan's offshore deposits. The pipeline was closed during Russia's conflict with Chechnya.

The Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC), a consortium which includes 11 international oil companies, among them BP, signed a multibillion dollar deal with the Azeri government in 1994.

The energy companies and the Caspian Sea states have been working for years to extract this oil. But finding the most efficient route to get it out of the region remains a problem. Apart from the newly reopened pipeline, which will soon be obsolete as it lacks capacity and runs through the battle zone of Russia's breakaway Chechnya region, no major pipeline

exists to transport such large reserves.

Plans to build multiple pipelines are as complicated as the region itself. All options pass through politically unstable areas, involve high costs because of distance, or involve politically sensitive questions.

The present line leads to the Russian port of Novorossiysk; Moscow thereby has considerable leverage, and can limit oil exports from other countries. However, Russian officials have warned that the deal with the local authorities in Chechnya could break down at any time. As a result, Russia is pushing ahead with a plan to build a line bypassing Chechen territory.

The Caspian oil development is bound to reshape the political geography of the region, which Russia still considers within its sphere of influence. The United States is pushing for multiple pipeline routes in order to change the balance of power.

The outcome of the competition over routes and a rush by oil companies and governments to develop the region's energy resources will have far-reaching political and economic effects.

The three preferred routes run from Azerbaijan to the Black Sea through Georgia, from Azerbaijan to the Black Sea through the Russian Federation and from Azerbaijan to the Mediterranean via Georgia and Turkey. An alternative is via Iran to the Gulf - which the US opposes although it makes most economic sense.

Russian leeches for mo

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Russians swear by leeches as a cure for modern ills

Life has been tough for the leech in the 3,000 years in which it has been sucking human blood. But our Moscow Correspondent finds that it is shedding its image as a quack's remedy, and wriggling back into fashion.

Boris Yeltsin's coronary bypass operation may seem a resounding success, but it was a waste of time and money. Why allow surgeons to rummage around your chest, when the same job can be done for a fraction of the cost by a small, bungry, team of worms? There are no scalpels, no monster scars, and not much blood. And, with the blood-suckers costing only 40p each, you can look forward to an affordable bill.

That, at any rate, is the view of Gennady Nikonov, a scientist leading a revival in the use of the medical leech, or hirudotherapy, in Russia. Once a traditional peasant remedy, it is now being used against decidedly modern complaints, from heart trouble and fatigue to hypertension and wrinkles.

To Mr Yeltsin's case, he reckons 25 leeches applied three times a month for six months would have done the trick. "We appealed to the president... to use leeches," he grumbled. "The outcome would have been the same. All history shows that they can be used for treating diseased hearts and blood vessels."

Dr Nikonov is scientific director of a small business 30 miles north-east of Moscow. On paper, it's known as the Ruspharmabiofactory. In reality, it is a tumbledown former laboratory full of large water-filled glass jars, containing tens of thousands of leeches.

Job satisfaction is not an emotion often witnessed in post-Soviet Russia. But here, as their leeches feed on billions of cattle blood, sucked through a membrane of cow tissue, workers not only smile, they laugh.

And with reason. While Russia's heavy industry is in chaos, and millions of teachers, miners, and doctors wait months for wages, the leech business is thriving. Ruspharmabio - which works in partnership with a French and a Ukrainian company - pays its 55 workers well above the national average of \$170 (£102) a month. Pay packets arrive on time. Though a company secret, profits are running at 15 per cent of turnover, according to the management. Output is up from 300,000 in 1993 to 800,000 leeches this year. It is hard to imagine anyone willingly allowing a leech to bite through their skin, and suck away for half an hour until, bloated to six times its original size, it drops to the floor.

Yet leech therapists say that the worm contains a cocktail of medically effective enzymes, notably the anti-coagulant hirudin. Properly applied, they can help treat a wide range of conditions from headache to

products that the partnership produces using chemicals extracted from leeches. "Anionia" cream is exported to France where it sells for 38 francs to women in search of "tonicité, élasticité et jeunesse".

One cannot help suspecting that there is an element of hype here, an attempt to market the leech as a panacea to almost everything (although Dr Nikonov admits there's no sign that it cures alcoholism, Russia's blight). Yet consumers and suppliers seem enthusiastic.

Dr Igor Kulikov, 36, who has a small surgery near Moscow, turned to leeches to solve his bowel problems, said: "I did it for seven weeks, once a week and now I'm cured... and my sexual potency increased."

While for Nadezhda Fedorova, a pharmacist from Moscow's Ferein drug store who sells leeches in batches of 10 to up to 20 customers a day: "It's like a drug - once you try it you want more and more."



In demand: Nadezhda Fedorova, a pharmacist, with some of the leeches on sale at Moscow's Ferein drug store. Photograph: Igor Tabakov/Moscow Times

BY PHIL REEVES

approval of Dr Nikonov, who warns of the risk of getting AIDS and hepatitis from a second-hand worm.

The mere mention of the word "leech" delights the 41-year-old scientist, who is nothing if not an enthusiast. Why are his staff happy? Because the leech gives off a special aura of "bio-energy". And, he adds happily, because they are healthy; after all, they are lucky enough to be regularly bitten. "There is no sick list here," he boasts.

Nor is he averse to a little blood-letting himself. "Like all normal people I have high blood pressure. So every three months I apply eight leeches, and that keeps the level down. I practically never use chemical pills." The sensation is like coming out of a Russian steam bath: total relaxation. All his friends and relatives use them, he says, so does the factory director, whose reward was to have a cream named after her, one of a number of cosmetic

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16/MIDDLE EAST

Iraq raises stakes in showdown with UN

Saddam shows no sign of relenting in his refusal to accept American inspectors. Members of the UN team monitoring the destruction of weapons of mass destruction. As Britain warns that military action cannot be ruled out, Patrick Cockburn looks at the choices now facing the Iraqi president and the Security Council.

All operations in Iraq are temporarily suspended," says Richard Butler, the chairman of UNSCOM, after Iraq's Revolution Command Council demanded that the 10 American members of his team of 100 leave Baghdad, stopping its work for the first time in six years. "Who's next?" he asked. "Today, it is the United States, tomorrow the United Kingdom and so on," he said. UNSCOM is not an ant heap of Americans. The largest proportion of staff is actually British, running helicopters. One of the toughest

responses to the Iraqi move came from Britain, which said that military action against Iraq could not be ruled out unless Baghdad complied with UN inspections.

"We're not ruling out any options at this stage," said Derek Fatchett, a junior Foreign Office minister. Earlier the 15-member United Nations Security Council had warned of "serious consequences" if Iraq did not comply.

A sign of the edgy mood at the start of the fresh confrontation between Iraq and the Security Council was the rise in the price of oil, with markets opening higher and London December futures for benchmark Brent blend opening 16 cents higher at \$19.94 a barrel.

This was despite assurances from Western diplomats and Iraqi officials who said the row over arms inspections will not affect the oil-for-food programme whereby Iraq sells \$2bn (£1.6bn) worth of crude every six months.

Neither side has attractive options likely to extract concessions from the other side. The US and UK, the hardliners in the Security Council,

may favour military action but this is likely to be symbolic. They cannot restart the Gulf War. President Saddam has a powerful army of 450,000 and at least 800 modern T-72 tanks.

Missile strikes, such as those launched by the US last year when President Saddam captured the Kurdish capital Arbil with his tanks, are ineffectual. A measure, like the extension of the so-called "no-fly" zone over the rest of Iraq, does little in practice to limit President Saddam's authority on the ground.

Much will depend on the Iraqi leader's intentions. He has clearly come to believe that the US and UK will maintain sanctions whatever he did. His position has somewhat strengthened in the past year, but in the past he has tended to overplay his hand when he sees a tactical advantage. This overconfidence led him to invade Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990, in both cases with disastrous results.

It is true, however, that the collapse of the Iraqi opposition backed by the US and civil war between his former enemies in Kurdistan has strengthened his position.



Saber Abu el-Ulla, a former asylum inmate, being led into a military court in Cairo yesterday, charged with attacking a tourist bus and killing nine Germans and an Egyptian bus driver last month. He and his brother, Mahmoud, were found guilty and sentenced to death. Photograph: Reuters

Ransom deal disputed as Yemeni tribe frees Briton

Henry Thompson, the Briton kidnapped by Yemeni tribesmen 18 days ago, has been released following government mediation. Patrick Cockburn says questions remain about who is behind the spate of recent abductions of foreigners in the country.

Henry Thompson, 38, who was held captive in the mountains of northern Yemen, was due to arrive in Sana'a last night, according to the Interior Ministry in the capital. Mr Thompson, who had worked briefly in Yemen for the Japan International Co-operation Agency, was kidnapped along with his driver, Mohammed Abdul-Rahman, by men from the Bani Zabyan tribe on 12 October as he was driving along a busy main road 45 miles south of the capital. He was then taken east to a tribal stronghold, south of the city of Marib.

News of Mr Thompson's release came when General Hussein Arab, the Yemeni Interior Minister, called David Pearce, the British Consul, at home on Wednesday night to say he was free. He is said to have been taken to the city of Marib and to be in good health.

Mr Thompson was one of 46 visitors who have been kidnapped this year in Yemen, a mountainous state in the south-east of the Arabian peninsula with a population of 17 million. The tribesmen who held him demanded that various social grievances be remedied in their district, specifically asking for a road, water supply and a clinic.

Yemeni officials are derisive about these demands. They say most kidnappings have ended when the government has made a cash payment and a present to tribal leaders, such as a four-wheel-drive car. They insist the kidnappings are orchestrated by the political opposition, financed by Saudi Arabia.

Gazi Aligosaibi, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Britain, last week denied his country was involved in the kidnappings. In a letter to *The Independent* he said there was not "a shred of evidence" for the allegation. But Dr Abdul Karim al-Eryani, the Yemeni Foreign Minister, said there was a general understanding among foreign governments that the kidnappings "were a political act, not a breakdown of law and order". He said their objective was "to smear the country". He said Yemen was so poor, with a per capita income of less than \$500 (£300) a year, that it was easy to procure "a criminal act by paying a certain amount of

money". Dr Eryani said he did not have proof of the involvement of Saudi Arabia.

Mr Thompson was released after the governor of Sana'a visited the district where he was being held, 30 miles south-east of Marib. The British embassy in Sana'a said it had no information about any deal agreed with the kidnappers by the government of Yemen to free Mr Thompson.

Mr Thompson had apparently suffered little harm during his captivity, complaining only of boredom in one letter faxed by his kidnappers. In an earlier message he had said: "We are very comfortable, well-fed and the people are courteous".

The speed of negotiations with the kidnappers may have been accelerated by the desire of the Yemeni president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to see Mr Thompson released before he pays his first official visit to Britain on 11 November, when he is expected to meet the Queen, Prime Minister Tony Blair, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and other ministers.

No sooner was Mr Thompson released than tribesmen kidnapped Steve Carpenter, a US businessman working for a subcontractor Hunt Oil, one of the main oil companies in Yemen. Two Russian doctors and their wives have also been kidnapped.

Plan to cut hole in Jerusalem wall

Israel's deputy housing minister, Meir Porush, said yesterday he wants to reopen a sealed gate in the 400-year-old wall ringing Jerusalem's Old City, despite archaeologists' warnings that this would harm the character of the historical monument.

The plan to break through the five-metre-thick stone wall is part of a Housing Ministry proposal to build up the Jewish Quarter and increase its population of 2,400 by 25 per cent. The plan still awaits government approval.

The Company for Renovating and Developing the Jewish Quarter said yesterday it was planning a \$30m (£18m) underground complex that would include a hotel, a commercial centre and educational institutions.

The proposed construction is liable to anger the Palestinians, highly sensitive to any changes in Jerusalem's eastern sector which they claim as their future capital.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision in September 1996 to open an archaeological tunnel along Muslim holy sites in the Old City triggered Palestinian riots, in which 80 people were killed.

Gideon Avni, chief archaeologist at Israel's Antiquities Authority, said: "The wall is one of the most important historical monuments in the world. How do you preserve the character of Jerusalem as an ancient city, if you begin destroying the remains by salami method one by one?"

Settlement freeze put on the table

The Israeli Foreign Minister, David Levy, will travel to Washington tomorrow with a government mandate to discuss with Palestinian Liberation Organisation negotiators a "time-out" on Jewish settlement activities, an official spokesman said yesterday.

Asked if Mr Levy was authorised to discuss an Israeli freeze in settlement building the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Aviv Shir-On, said: "He can conduct negotiations on all issues on the agenda."

Mr Levy said his government had given him a mandate after six hours of consultations on Wednesday to negotiate with the PLO official, Mahmoud Abbas.

But Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian President, said he doubted Mr Levy had the mandate to make decisions on implementing 34 outstanding interim issues, foremost being further redeployments from the West Bank and the halting of settlement activity. "The meeting in Washington will be simply for the sake of meeting. No more, no less. It will be a waste of time," Mr Arafat said to the West Bank town of Ramallah on Wednesday.

The talks were arranged a month ago by the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. The agenda Ms Albright set with both sides included Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank and a freeze on Jewish settlement activities, with the aim of getting in talks on the final shape and status of Palestinian areas.

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HEWLETT PACKARD

Handwritten text in Arabic script: ١٥٢٠١٢٠١٣

Thousands of men and women in Algeria have been "disappeared" by the security forces. Amongst them are Houria Shehab's son and Djamilia's husband. But the security forces deny all knowledge of their existence.

"They came for Houria Shchab's second son on at 6.45 on the morning of 18 March 1994. Solim was in bed. "There were more than 20 of them," Houria says. "There were soldiers in uniforms and plain-clothes men. They came in army vehicles and police Nissan cars. The soldiers had helmets on. They were arresting a lot of young men from our area – about 15 others were taken."

In her brown scarf and blue gown and with many of her front teeth missing, Houria Shehab looks older than her 57 years, her face lined with tiredness as well as prema-

Her grief. Her husband died 13 years ago, leaving her with seven girls and three boys to bring up. Salim – plump with a thick black moustache and big eyes – was a student of accountancy at Ain Taya, 24 years old and, according to his mother, uninterested in politics.

"He had no contacts with Islamic groups - he never spent a night away from our home," Houria Shehah says. Much good did that do Salim.

"The soldiers and the police knocked on the door and one of them asked: 'Is this the house of Salim Shehah?' I said 'Yes', he was still asleep in his bedroom, along with his brother. The cops burst into his bedroom and woke him up. He got dressed and I saw him collect all of his identification papers and all the documents for his accountancy course and the papers which allowed him a de-

ferral from his military service. I tried to talk to him but they wouldn't let me. One of them said: 'If you don't shut up, we can kill your son.' They took him away."

Houria Shebah is in tears now. For three and a half years, she has been telling her story. So have the families of the other 15 men taken from her neighbourhood in eastern Algeria. For none of them ever came back. Algerians know that anyone detained – or, for want of a better word, kidnapped – by the security services who does not return within a few months is probably dead. Houria knows this. So do we. But of course, we all pretend that Salim must be still alive. Houria has to believe this for why else would she visit her lawyer's office with the tiny passport size photograph of Salim?

"After the arrest, I went to the commissariat in Harrash [in eastern Algiers] but he wasn't there. I went to the central police station and they said they knew nothing."

then I went back to Harrash and it was the same story. I even went to the cemetery. They knew nothing. It has been the same ever since. I still go to the police stations. Nothing. I don't understand why they would do this to my son."

There is a silent understanding between the relatives of "disappeared", a shared knowledge of fear and suspended mourning. Houria Shebah smiles gently at Djamilia as she sits down beside us with her two children.

Djamila is only 29 and beautiful, her face glowing beneath her black headscarf, radiating a confidence she has no right to have. She agrees that her husband, Mourad, was working for a group which assassinated intellectuals in Algeria - including the country's most prominent pro-government trade union leader - although

she insists he never carried a weapon or participated in killings. Mourad was originally a member of the Islamic Salvation Front, banned by the government after it was about to win the 1991 elections.

"It was obvious that they would come for him," Djamilâ says. "He was living clandestinely with me, in hiding. On 29 August 1993, we had to leave our house in the centre of Algiers and trav-

called to Oran. He went on working politically there for his group and we stayed there in hiding in

an apartment until 20 April this year, which was the last day I saw him. It was a Sunday morning and he went out at six. I think he had a meeting with someone from the organisation."

Djamila's children, Sarah and Bassima, are too young to understand the story; Sarah spends part of the time eating pastries from a table in the lawyer's office where her mother is talking.

"He was a political man, not a fighter, not a GIA man," Djamilia repeats, anxious to as-

sert a non-violent role for her husband. "I think he must have been arrested before he reached the place of his appointment. Maybe the man he was to meet had told the police he would be there. Two days later, they came for me - soldiers and plain-clothes men - to arrest me and to take away Mourad's papers. They told me to pull down my scarf over my eyes. There was no violence."

Djamila was taken to what she believes was the police

Central Commissariat in Oran. "I had big steps and big hallways. In a room with a computer they asked me questions. Where were my children? Why did I follow Mourad to Oran? I told them he was my husband. An old man in civilian clothes took a record of the interrogation. But I was very frightened because by the way they asked the questions. It was as if they hadn't arrested him.

"The way they spoke allowed them to say they hadn't done it, that they didn't have

Divided families: Djamilia (main picture) has not seen her husband for six months. Houria Shehab's son Salim (above) was taken three years ago. Photographs: Robert Fisher

WHAT CAN I DO?

Amnesty International's advice to those concerned about the tragedy in Algeria is:

● To write to their MP to urge the Foreign Secretary to press for a special session of the UN Human Rights Commission to focus on the grave situation in Algeria and to press the Algerian government to allow access to independent human-rights observers in Algeria.

● To write to their MP to press the Home Secretary to consider fairly and compas-

sionately the cases of Algerian asylum-seekers fleeing the upheaval in Algeria and to release those Algerian asylum seekers arbitrarily detained in the UK.

● To become a member or make a donation to support the work of Amnesty International UK which is campaigning to end human-rights violations in Algeria. Amnesty's Hot Line for enquiries is 0345-611116 in the UK. From abroad, Amnesty's International Secretariat in London can be contacted on 0044-171-413-5500.

him. I signed the minutes of the meeting."

Djamila has heard nothing for more than six months. But, like every other family of the "disappeared", she has received contradictory news. "Some prisoners were released from the Chateaufort police commissariat in Algiers. One said that Mourad had died there under torture, another said he was still alive." Djamila's smile appears again, disconnected from her story, anxious to discover if there is anything else we want to know.

We turn to Houria Shehab. Did she know that there were other countries in which there were "disappeared", we wanted to know? Did she know that there were women's groups abroad who were trying to learn the fate of their loved ones? Had she heard of the mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Argentina who still demonstrated for news of their husbands and sons?

Houria thought for a long time and then shyly told us: "I have heard that there is a country called Argentina."

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South Africa blasts last landmines

South African Defence Minister Joe Maseko yesterday detonated 1,000 anti-personnel landmines to destroy the last of the country's stockpile. The occasion, dedicated to the late Diana, Princess of Wales, completed South Africa's pledge to stop using such mines as weapons. — AP, Capetown

Algerians protest

Thousands of people took to the streets of Algiers yesterday in the largest demonstration since 1992, to protest what they called massive fraud in local elections a week ago. — Reuters, Paris

Imelda in danger

Imelda Marcos, widow of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was rushed to a Manila hospital yesterday and doctors said her condition was unstable. — Reuters, Manila

Indians thwarted

A Honduran riot squad stopped 400 Indians from erecting a statue of Lempira, an Indian leader who resisted the Spanish conquerors nearly 500 years ago, in the spot where they had recently toppled a statue of Christopher Columbus. — Reuters, Tegucigalpa

Americans unimpressed by huge trade deals with China

China yesterday signed its biggest order for foreign aircraft with the Boeing Corporation, placing trade firmly at the centre of this week's US-China summit. In spite of burgeoning commercial exchanges, Mary Dejevsky, in Washington, finds that Americans are still sceptical about closer ties with China.

The \$3bn (£1.8bn) order for 36 Boeing 737s, five 757s, one 747 and eight 777s was described by President Bill Clinton as a contract that would support tens of thousands of American jobs and provide China with a modern fleet of passenger aircraft.

The signing ceremony came the day after Mr Clinton announced an agreement that

will give US companies the chance to compete for orders for nuclear power stations in China, conservatively valued at \$60bn over the next 15 years.

On Wednesday evening, the guest list for the White House state banquet held in the Chinese leader's honour read like a register of big business in the US. US executives from companies as diverse as PepsiCo, General Electric, AT&T, and Walt Disney Co, all turned up for a feast of lobster and peppered beef at what was seen in Washington as the social event of the year.

For all the US jobs provided by trade with China, the American public remains highly sceptical about the value of improved relations with China. Although protests against Jiang Zemin's state visit have so far been low-key, there is a groundswell of anti-Chinese opinion that seems to be growing. A poll conducted for the USA Today newspaper and

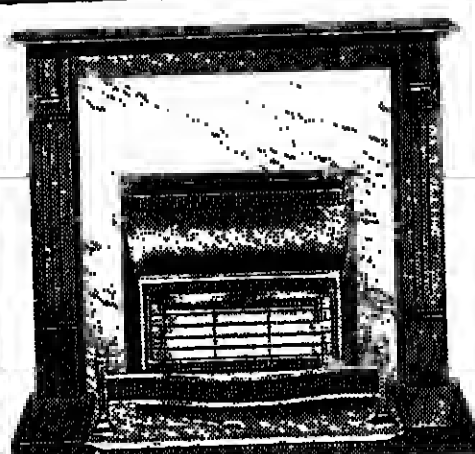
CNN television to coincide with President Jiang's visit showed large majorities supported "taking a strong stand" with China on its sale of nuclear weapons, Taiwan and human rights.

Some 36 per cent of those asked said they saw China as "unfriendly", or "an outright enemy", compared with 21 per cent who held this view before the armed assault on Tiananmen square eight years ago.

While Americans have few inhibitions about buying cheap Chinese manufactured goods they doubt China's good intentions overall. President Clinton tapped this mood with his tough words on human rights at Wednesday's press conference, when he and Jiang Zemin argued publicly about human rights. Mr Clinton said the Tiananmen protest and China's "continuing reluctance to tolerate political dissent" had prevented it from developing the political support in the world that it might otherwise have.

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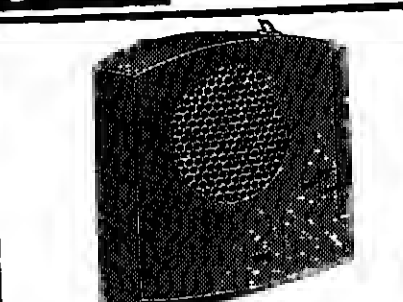
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Indonesia leans on IMF

Indonesia, which has been battered by weeks of turmoil in the currency and stock markets, has almost concluded a deal with the IMF for a standby facility of \$10bn-\$15bn (£6bn-£9bn).

The deal is expected to be clinched today, and would include broad agreement on a package of economic reform.

Indonesian government sources talked yesterday of opening the books up to the IMF. "It's like visiting a doctor," one said. "The amount of medicine will be decided by [the IMF in] Washington."

Japan and Australia have both indicated that they will provide financial assistance to Indonesia, if Indonesia adopts an IMF-backed reform package.

The Japanese prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, telephoned President Suharto this week to make the linkage explicit.

Investors were alarmed earlier this week when Mr Suharto said that Singapore had offered the Indonesian government \$10bn, not subject to IMF conditions. Malaysia, which has also been battered by the markets, said that it was offering Indonesia \$1bn "to fight speculation and manipulation", with no strings attached.

The Australian prime minister, John Howard, rebuked an MP who complained that Australia was giving aid to a "militaristic" regime, saying the measure was designed to "help the Indonesian people".

Elsewhere, discussions with the IMF on rescue packages continued. Officials in Thailand denied that they want to get themselves off the hook of conditions imposed by the IMF for a \$17bn bailout. Reports suggested that the government wants to ease budget constraints and extend borrowing limits.

— Steve Crawshaw
Far East turmoil, page 24

Defiant Unita keeps foreign offices open

Angola's former rebel movement yesterday scoffed at the UN Security Council's resolution to shut down its offices abroad.

A Unita spokesman in Lisbon said closing down the movement's 12 delegations in Europe, Africa and America would have "absolutely no practical effect". Unita spokesman Rui Oliveira said: "No security council resolution can stop us talking."

At his movement's offices in the Portuguese capital Mr Oliveira said it was business-as-usual yesterday, even though the sanctions came into force that morning. Mr Oliveira did not know if Unita offices in seven other European capitals were functioning, but Portuguese radio reported they were all open.

The Security Council approved the sanctions against Unita because it said the former rebel movement was dragging its feet on implementing the peace process in Angola.

A UN-brokered 1994 peace pact with the Angolan government has still not been implemented. Unita still has thousands of armed troops and has not given up control of the areas it seized during the two-decade civil war.

The UN resolution also banned all flights from Angola or which are due to land there, except for those designated by the Angolan government. The measure is aimed at stopping Unita from purchasing weapons and then flying them into territory it still controls. A travel ban was also slapped on Unita officials.

MILLIONS FACE STARVATION IN NORTH KOREA



This winter may prove to have devastating consequences for the people of North Korea. For the third consecutive year, a combination of floods and drought has ruined harvests and destroyed homes. In parts of the country, children are already having to live on a diet of tree bark and roots. Without urgent help, many will not survive the bitter cold of the North Korean winter.

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Virgin set to raise cheap fares by 37%

Richard Branson is often portrayed as the consumer's champion. So why is his train company proposing to raise some ticket prices by nearly 11 times the rate of inflation? Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, explains the tycoon's latest move.

Virgin Trains, whose network encompasses most of Britain, is planning to abolish its cheapest "walk-on" fares in January. It will mean passengers will have to pay up to 37 per cent more in travel using the cheapest tickets.

The move will see the demise of Super Saver tickets, which can be used on any day except Fridays and summer Saturdays, on both Cross-Country and West Coast services. The pressure group Save Our Railways said it was the beginning of the end of affordable, turn-up-and-go train travel.

At present, travellers who buy the cheapest "walk-on" fare from London to Manchester now pay £36. From next year, passengers will have to pay £46.50 - a 29 per cent rise.

Because of the vast size of the Virgin rail empire, it will see dramatic changes on hundreds of journeys. Passengers buying the cheapest ticket from a clerk for a trip from Eastbourne to Preston will find themselves shelling out £66 - 22 per cent more than they do now.

Barry Doe, a transport consultant, said the move was predictable. "These tickets were not protected by the last government, so it is not surprising they

have been abolished." In documents seen by *The Independent*, Chris Tibbitts, the managing director of Virgin Trains, admits the "changes are quite radical". Virgin aims to "encourage people to book in advance" and will cut the price of tickets reserved by telephone by 10 per cent in January. According to Mr Tibbitts, "as long as customers book in advance it is likely they will save money."

Virgin Trains, which received more than £200m last year from the taxpayer to run services, has to increase ticket sales by 10 per cent in order to make the line profitable.

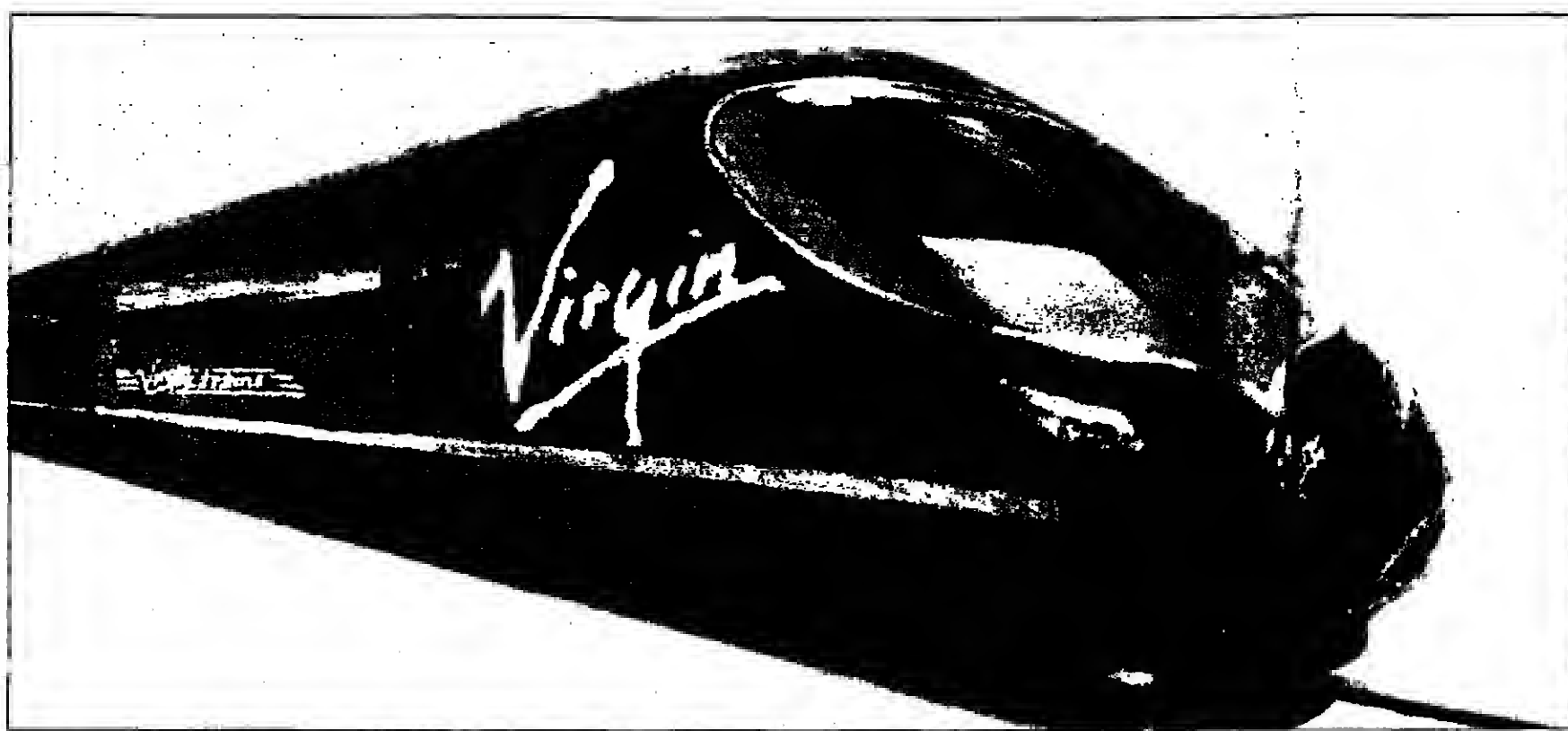
Richard Branson's business plan is based around airline-style marketing. This means that a number of low-cost tickets have been heavily promoted by the company - but all require passengers to book their journey a day early and to specify outbound and return trains.

Ominously for Virgin, the rail regulator John Swift QC, considers the "more widespread introduction of dedicated advance purchase fares" as a "potential detriment to be avoided or controlled".

Mr Swift's office is examining how such excesses could be curbed, if they "worked against the passengers' interest."

Passenger groups have warned the company that they will fight to retain the cheapest fares. The Rail Users' Consultative Committee for North Western England pointed out last year that "moves towards a largely pre-booked service" would push "more people to use cars".

Jonathan Bray, director of Save Our Railways, said the new philosophy meant cheap tickets were sold "at the convenience of the company, not the passenger".



Future vision: An artist's impression of the high-speed tilting trains that Virgin is planning to introduce on its West Coast line, dramatically cutting journey times

Privatisation failing to live up to its promise

It was meant to be a return to a golden era. The sprawling British Rail network - unloved by passengers and underinvested in by successive governments - was to be revived by private entrepreneurs who would simultaneously make heaps of cash and cut the vast public subsidy. That was the plan.

Unfortunately for the ordinary passenger, the railways, now in private hands, do not seem to have noticeably improved. In some cases the service has palpably declined. Earlier this month, the latest performance figures were released showing that one of the worst performers was the West Coast main line - run by Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin group.

On its West Coast Scottish service, more than 25 per cent of all trains were running at least 10 minutes late. Virgin executives admit at least one train every day is more than an hour late.

With many of the West Coast trains now emblazoned with the trademark Virgin logo, Mr Branson is acutely aware that the poor performance may permanently scar his previously unblemished record in the eyes of the public.

"We hope our passengers understand that

we are getting there and improving the service," says Brian Barrett, chief executive of Virgin Trains. Mr Barrett points out more than £2.1bn will be spent on the upgrading the dilapidated West Coast main line. But executives admit that until the West Coast is modernised and new tilting trains are de-

ANALYSIS
BY RANDEEP
RAMESH

livered in 2002, at least one in ten trains will be late.

Virgin is not alone. Punctuality on more than two-thirds of the 60 routes run by the 25 private operators was poorer in the three months from April of this year than in the same period last year - when most of the network was still in the public sector.

It is not all bad news. The rail barons have introduced an array of marketing stunts aimed at attracting passengers back to the railways. When Central Trains, which runs

services from Aberystwyth to Norwich and is owned by bus giant National Express, introduced cheap day returns in August for "under a fiver" it saw ticket sales jump more than 90 per cent on some commuter routes. Great Western, which runs InterCity services from London to Bristol, announced that it will be buying eight new trains to increase frequencies on its busy routes.

Chiltern Railways, which serves London and Birmingham, has seen passenger numbers jump by 15 per cent in 12 months. In fact, the railway is running out of space and has got a green light to add another 18 miles of track to increase capacity.

Great North Eastern, which runs the East Coast service, is another victim of its own success. Chris Garnett, the company's managing director, says his trains are "so full you have people standing for hours".

On the back of a booming economy, passenger numbers have grown by 6.6 per cent on the privatised network. But this is not the largest reported increase ever. In fact, British Rail recorded a 7.7 per cent increase in 1986 - again when the economy boomed.

The question for many experts is whether the train companies can meet their ambitious

growth plans. Some companies see their public subsidies fall off so quickly that they will have to raise ticket sales by 10 per cent a year. If they fail then the Government may be forced either to dip into its pockets and pay more, or cut the service levels.

So are taxpayers getting a better deal from private operators than the public sector? The problem for passengers is that they have been promised much, but little has been delivered. For example, although more than 580 trains have been ordered by the private companies, no new stock will appear until next year.

To make matters worse, the taxpayer is shelling out more now than it did under BR. In private hands, the system now costs about £2bn last year. In the public sector, BR annually set back the nation about £1bn. In actual fact, the subsidy paid by the government to the private sector gently falls away - so that by 2003, the cost to the public purse is a little more than £900m.

Although undoubtedly the private sector has made some improvements, these measures are too small to make a difference. The problem is not privatisation, but the fact that the public have yet to get what they have paid so much for.

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THAMESLINK

Eighteen is old enough

What should the Woodward case teach parents? Celia Dodd writes on unskilled childcare.

"Louise Woodward is a sacrificial lamb. She was put on this earth to teach us all a lesson." So says the director of a top London nanny agency. The lessons seem obvious: Louise Woodward was too young and inexperienced for such a demanding and stressful job. Hopefully the case will have finally laid to rest the fallacy that anyone with younger siblings and a bit of babysitting under their belt can look after children. But should working parents also conclude that no 18-year-old should be left in sole charge?

Liz Roberts, editor of *Nursery World*, says not: "There is no reason why a mature 18-year-old who's got experience and proper training should not be as good a nanny as someone who is older. But obviously it depends on the 18-year-old."

Most working mothers would admit that they wouldn't choose an 18-year-old unless they really had to. The trouble is the 24-year-olds have usually been snapped up by someone who can offer more money and better perks. In this competitive market you get what you pay for, currently that means £200-£250 a week plus tax and National Insurance for a daily live-out nanny in London working 40-50 hours a week. It's unfair to say that if you pay peanuts you get monkeys, but with a younger nanny you're sure to have to invest time making sure she gets things right.

That's certainly what I discovered when I employed an untrained 17-year-old to look after my five- and three-year-olds. I can't say her age didn't make me nervous - I had panic attacks when she was late back from the park - but she was brilliant with the children. And unlike more mature nannies, she didn't sneer at the way I wanted things done. The downside was that I had to spell out how to cook chicken nuggets, and warn her never to let the children out of her sight. But within six months I had complete confidence in her.

Charlotte Breese, co-author of *The Good Nanny Guide*, also employed a teenager to look after her first baby when she worked from home. She advises taking time out to settle the nanny in. "Otherwise... it can take them months to find their feet. If parents take the attitude that an 18-year-old is responsible for herself, then they're ignoring what it is to be 18. It's up to them to help her sort out a bank account, provide the A-Z and the alarm clock and whatever else she needs."

"The teenager who looked after my baby had just come down from Manchester, fresh from her NNEB training course. Like most nannies her age, it was the first time she'd left home and it was a major trauma. She used to watch *Coronation Street* and cry every week... I offered to contribute to her coach fare so she could go home more often, and it was all right in the end - she was delightful and she stayed for two years. But it was just like settling a child into a new situation."

It may seem a bit rum that you're expected to look after the very person who's supposed to be helping you. Yet that's always been the way with au pairs who are supposed to live as part of your family. Much has been made of the fact that Louise Woodward was not a nanny, but an au pair. Perhaps if she'd been treated a bit more like one, the tragedy would never have happened.



A dedicated follower of fashion
Main photograph: Paul Dodd



At the Commonwealth Meeting...



Supporting the World Cup bid...



Spinning the wheel of fortune...



Receiving an honorary degree...



Posing with the family...



Cossetting Humphrey...



Bonding with the girls in Denver...



Showing a leg at the Motor Show...



And, of course, being Mrs Tony

Cherie Booth, barrister, mother, woman of conviction. Can't she do better than this?

There's no avoiding Cherie at the moment. She's everywhere, always smiling, saying absolutely nothing. It may be the traditional demeanour of a prime minister's consort but what has it to do with the new Britain? Or indeed with the mind of Cherie Booth. She has a lot to offer says Yvonne Roberts, but this isn't it.

Presentationally, the past seven days have been the best of Cherie Booth's life as the wife of our over-esteemed Prime Minister. Twice on the front page of the *Daily Mail*, congratulated in the same paper as "a formidable asset" to her husband and possible successor to Diana (presumably as something for the nation to look at); portrayed laughing warmly at a fashion show in Edinburgh (dig that sense of humour), and admired widely in the tabloids at the Commonwealth Summit in Scotland for the choice of her handbag - a £600 Tanner Krolle (dig that style). All of which was eclipsed yesterday by a very large photograph (in the *Mail* again) of Cherie and her pussycat, Humphrey. In the PR stakes, this is no longer Cherie B (as in lower than average grades for image) but the evolution of an A-plus star. And yet...

Integrity is supposed to be the word driven through the stick of rock that is New Labour's New Enterprise for a New Britain - so why does it seem so conspicuously absent from the public platform which has been engineered for our Prime Minister's spouse? At the weekend, Blair told the lead-

ers of the Commonwealth in Edinburgh: "You are here in a new Britain - there is a new British identity: modern, enterprising, outward, open and compassionate."

So why, in this New Britain, don't we also have a new, truthful, version of the leader's wife, instead of a woman who is sold to us via the desperately old-fashioned props of handbags, pets and little-woman-behind-the-throne antics? At present, Cherie comes over in a similar fashion to that life-size cardboard cut-out clutching a box camera which was propped up outside chemists' shops in the Sixties to advertise the wares of Kodak - eye-catching, but dumb. The evidence, of course, is that Ms Booth is far from one-dimensional.

Cherie's grandfather was a Derbyshire miner; her mother, Gail, a powerful and impressive woman, a former actress, who reared her two daughters alone and mostly broke in Liverpool. Cherie was top of her year in her Bar exams; her husband achieved a dismal third. Cherie has been a parliamentary candidate; she specialises as a barrister in European community law, earns over £200,000 a year, and in 1995 was appointed a QC at a very young age.

She has won rights for lesbian couples, and assured better terms for part-time workers. It would be normal for an ambitious lawyer who has her eyes set on becoming a judge, as she is, to make public comment about such victories; Cherie restricts herself to the anonymity. Diana endeared herself to many because of her willingness (or compulsion) to use her own life - the lows more than the highs - as reference points for others. It humanised the Royal Family. The Blairs, cynically in my view, prefer to add the ordinary touch via family photo

opportunities - kids in baseball caps, Mum always looking self-consciously done over by make-up artists. Dad tousled, dynamic, caring. But Cherie knows a thing or two about poverty; about single parenthood; about abuse within the family (her father, Tony, was an alcoholic and is a retired hell-raiser); about trying to combine career and family life in a workplace in which the needs of children are discounted.

She supports charities such as Refuge, dealing with domestic violence, which echo her personal experience. Yet, in public, she says nothing. The spin doctors won't allow her to give uncontrolled, grown-up interviews, because who knows what she might say? But a modern, dynamic New Labour Woman of the Nineties who is mute? Come off it.

It's a risk, of course, if Cherie is allowed to find her own voice. But it's a far smaller risk than perpetuating the present charade, which holds many more presentational dangers in the long run. The first is that whatever Cherie thinks she's doing now as part of the selling of her husband, it ain't convincing. Any working mother will tell her, it simply makes her look like New Labour's Jekyll and Hyde. (And raises questions as to how she can be performing any of her multiplicity of roles - mother, barrister, wife, politician's support - even to the mediocre standards to which most of us aspire.)

If she's a working wife, an individual woman John Rentoul in his biography on Tony Blair heralded as "a new role model for career women" she should stick to her own profession and her family commitments and make no appearances with her husband (except at party conferences, if she wants a bit of the glory). In the new, modern

Britain, (as well as the old) it's called getting one's priorities right. It's a backroom role which the husbands of prominent Scandinavian politicians manage well - and no body expects anything else. It's a role which Mary Wilson, wife of Harold, opted for - and it never did him or her any harm. On the contrary, after the initial shock associated with coming across a human being who positively loathed the limelight, the media accorded Mary Wilson respect even while going for her husband's jugular.

If Cherie is a working wife, as Mary Wilson was a poet and homemaker, then that entitles her to privacy and the right to hold her silence if she so chooses. If, however, Cherie opts for the highly anachronistic part of the adoring full-time PM's partner, a major part of the mechanics of New Labour's public machine, then she also has to accept becoming more accountable. We pay for her to trot out alongside Tony; we expect to get more than frozen smiles for our money. (Although the precise value of Cherie's presence at, for instance, the G7 conference at Denver, escapes me. If she's there to keep the other wives amused, then why don't they all remain back at base?) For Cherie to try and straddle these two conflicting roles, as she is now attempting to do, just makes her appear hypocritical, insincere and, mostly, highly uncomfortable.

Recall the official holiday snap taken in the summer when the Blairs were in Italy: The children and Tony looked casual; Cherie was kitted out in a two-piece suit more appropriate for a christening in Camden. That's what happens when a girl is no longer permitted to be true to herself - in wardrobe, words or instincts.

Admittedly, the role models for Cherie

aren't great. Jackie Kennedy became a Queen of Style (but then she never had to earn a living); Ladybird Johnson demonstrated how to live with a job and still show grace; Nancy Reagan was the mother of all manipulators. None of them had forged lives of their own before their men came to power. Hillary Rodham Clinton is an entirely different story - and one with its own built-in warning for Cherie.

Hillary has had as many changes of image as there are states in the US of A. She's moved from woman of power to the lady who lunches; she's lurched from the future back to the past, losing more votes for her husband than she's attracted. Perhaps she might have considered, instead, continuing in her role as a lawyer, rationing her appearances as president's wife and leaving politics until she was elected.

Cherie Booth's role could be groundbreaking. Plenty of women with jobs (part-time and full-time), children and husbands with pressured careers, would appreciate someone in the public eye who is open about the clashes and contradictions as well as the pleasures and pluses. Certainly, Cherie appears to have come a long way since those early Labour conferences when, clothes two sizes too big, carefully chosen by the stylists, a riotous on her face, she clung to her old man like a giant sea anemone.

It is not easy to mould a life which is honest to Cherie's own endeavours, but avoids alienating Middle England, whom her husband is so desperately keen to woo. But Mrs Blair is too talented to continue as New Labour's diversionary puppet. No matter what mischief the tabloids may make, cut the woman loose. She might even become a genuine electoral advantage.

Memories of a forbidden love affair in the City of the Dead



JOHN LYTTLE

In Belfast, where every street has its ghosts, John Lyttle was brought face to face with the son of a dead soldier who was brave enough to fight for his ideals, but not to own up to his deeper feelings.

Dead men walk in Belfast and walk in battalions, here, there, everywhere. Eyes open, lids shut, you spot them. You "dander" past the building that stands on the site of the former Four Step Inn and the lifeless body you helped pry free of the rubble rises in the air like the fine dust of that day and hangs before you, all blond hair, grey matter and blood.

And you may not so much as hesitate before thinking the apparition away, for what does one more face matter when corpses loiter on each corner? Up and down the Shankill Road, from Brown Square to the Woodvale, cousins, acquaintances, in-laws and strangers laid low by IRA lead, or scattered by a car bomb, or discovered dumped in some back alley, legs broken, throat cut, beaten unrecognisable.

No. Not unrecognisable. Otherwise how could you recognise Bucky, Ed, Jim, Grunty etc now, as heavy feet take you to the places where they lurk, forever condemned to haunt this narrow street, this 24-hour garage, this spit-and-sawdust bar, different scenes, same crime. The dead have no choice. They

have to hang around. Not like you. You left early, went "across the water", reluctant to be part of this - of violence, of bigotry, of your Da's burgeoning paramilitary life. But phantoms must remain, rooted in dread circumstance. Phantoms lie in permanent wait and watch tight-lipped as the ranks swell. Belfast is a ghost town.

Yet to have a spectre dash at you as you shuffle your way to the local leisure centre, rather hoping to empty your crowded head of unbidden spirits: it's stunning. The spook appears from the other side of Angus Street, walks right over and walks on by, black hair flying, blue eyes watering in the winter wind, still as young, still as handsome and, smash and grab, you're instantly thrown clear of the time flow, and heaving deep gulps of cold evening air. The phantom, though, pays no heed, passing so close that you catch a whiff of cheap cologne; something woody. He looks neither left nor right nor at you and disappears into the heat and light of Beattie's chip shop the second before your mind decides he's human, mortal, flesh. Not a dead

man but the only begotten son of a dead man; an almost forgotten (buried, suppressed) fling you had at 15 with a friend and fellow soldier of your father's. A man middling high in the UDA, a brave defender of Ulster with a wife and two children and a secret you briefly and recklessly shared. Past lives: 24 years ago you once held and crooned at the young man who just brushed by. Even then everyone agreed he was "the spit of his Da".

You pick up the gym bag you've left drop and keep going, keep thinking. For you haven't thought of him, not much, since nineteen seventy-something when a friend rang you in the safe haven of London and mentioned in the course of conversation, oh, that fella was shot last night, perhaps by the Provos, perhaps by a feuding Protestant faction. Through the chest and stomach, apparently. What a shame. You felt a pang - nothing vast or immediately lacerating - and nearly blurted out the story. But the dead man had always said, "No one must know." He'd made that clear the first time he shyly took you upstairs, hands trembling. His family were

safely away in the coastal resort of Portrush and he was too busy collecting protection money and the profits of illegal after-hours clubs to join them. Your father sent you to him that afternoon with a note about "urgent business" - "See you, you're not to read it. Understand?" That's how it started. Luck.

"No one must know." How funny that he had no terror of being topped, but lived in fear of being found out. Only it's not funny playing at *Godfather* movies. It's not funny impersonating the imposed image of hard man while living a lie.

You look about, at the supermarkets with ripped steel shutters, and newsagents with web-cracked windows, and video stores packed with cheap action flicks, and conclude that in this matter nothing essential has changed: no escape from the in-bred macho, the rules of the game. Probably the same for Republicans.

Permitted to hate, forbidden to love. "I could get kneecapped for this," he'd mutter, and if he were here to repeat the statement it would still ring true. There was no great

call, or use, for his tenderness, and he could be tender. He liked to hold and be held, and talk about his babies. Their first teeth, first steps, first words. He was, what, 22, 23? You never cared enough to ask. And you never went upstairs with him again after he angrily told you not to smile at him "that way" in front of your father. "Yur Da would kill me" he said, and you made the mistake of joking that of course Yur Da wouldn't: that's what goons were for. He glared at you with such rage and resentment, and that was that. You and he were done. No big deal. Not for you, anyway.

The pretty girl at the leisure centre takes your membership card and says you're one step ahead of the rain. On cue, it begins to pour. You and she laugh. "Trish weather," she says, tapping numbers into a keyboard. "I don't know why I stay, it's that miserable." "Leave then," you advise, voice serious, meaning it. She looks up, a bit embarrassed. She returns the card. "Ach, sure you get used to it," she says. Sure. The way animals get used to traps. Until someone comes along and puts a bullet in them.

21/OBITUARIES

THE INDEPENDENT
FRIDAY
31 OCTOBER 1997

Poppet Pol

Elizabeth Anne ("Poppet") John, born Alderney, Dorset 9 March 1912; married 1930 Derek Jackson (marriage dissolved 1935), 1942 Villiers Bergne (marriage dissolved 1945), 1952 Willem Pol (died 1988; one stepdaughter); died London 22 October 1997.

Poppet always seemed faintly glamorous to the younger members of the John family; she was the aunt who lived in the South of France, mixed with grand people and loved a cocktail party. She had an exotic, named stepdaughter, Talitha, and a charming husband, Pol. At their best they were a delightful, animated couple, who none the less suffered devastating turns of fate: Pol had endured the atrocities of a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in Indonesia, and his daughter was to die tragically early.

Poppet John was born in 1912 at Alderney Manor, Dorset, barely a year after her parents, Dorelia and Augustus John, had settled there, bringing to an end a decade of restless travel. She was to have been called Elizabeth Anne, but was renamed when her half-brother Caspar, nine years old at the time and destined to become First Sea Lord, gazed at her and said: "What a little poppet."

Due in part to their father's possessiveness, Poppet and her younger sister Vivien were refused any schooling, and they grew up as free spirits, riding bareback over the Dorset wilderness, helping their mother and avoiding any tutors whose hapless task it was to instruct them.

Augustus was at the height of his fame when Poppet was

growing up, and she led a stimulating life, participating in his spontaneous parties and glimpsing the famous personalities who came to sit for her father: from 1919 he painted the Marchesa Casati, Lady Ottoline Morrell, T.E. Lawrence (who took her for a whirl on his motorbike), Madame Suggia, Thomas Hardy and many more.

She also posed, which entailed keeping absolutely still, an ordeal she and Vivien came to dread, but they feature among some of his most beautiful child portraits. In other paintings they appear as small bright figures in a landscape, and in his drawings they take centre stage, striking poses typical of uninhibited youth.

At the age of 18, Poppet married Derek Jackson, physician, amateur jockey (he rode in the Grand National) and very rich. She was plunged into the hunting world and although she kept her end up she soon felt out of her depth; she was unnerved by the trappings of the rich; in particular, she always recalled with laughter the butler who would stand behind her at mealtimes "breathing heavily".

The marriage ended after five years but at 23 she did not lack admirers; indeed she was once given the epithet "Lords Unlimited" after being seen with a group at the Ritz. She adored the company of men, and as she was no intellectual they found her natural vivacity highly attractive.

A wartime marriage to Villiers Bergne in 1942 ended in 1945; then in 1952 she married Willem Pol and together they made their home in Ramatuelle, near St Tropez, in the days when the Côte d'Azur was still blissfully undeveloped and free of traffic. There was virtually no plumbing in the village and they

decided to buy a one-room *baside* among the vineyards below Ramatuelle. They gradually expanded it and it was here that Pol's daughter Talitha would spend holidays.

She still suffered from nightmares as a result of her wartime internment on Java as a child, but she grew into a stunningly beautiful young girl and in 1966 married Paul Getty Jr. Their son Tara was born in 1968 but, after Talitha's harrowing death in 1971, the four-year old Tara came to live in the secure environment of the *baside*. He was thenceforth raised by his grandfather and Poppet, who, having become stepmother to Talitha (happily so, for she had been unable to have children), now found herself in the role of step-grandmother. It was a role she fulfilled with unswerving devotion and Tara grew up calling her "Mummy".

She was 70 when Tara was still only 14 and she fought old age with a young spirit. Pol died in 1988 and, although she found extreme old age trying, she could be highly entertaining recalling her past love affairs and marriages and life with "Daddy" and Dodo. She became a wonderful cook, learning the local dishes such as bouillabaisse. She was quick to burst into bubbles of pretension and like her mother was not at all sentimental.

She delighted in recalling the realities of life at Fryern Court - Augustus's home and described by so many as a "magical" place - such as the bluebottles in the larder and the old cheese rinds and furry jam in the cupboard. Although she mixed effortlessly with the rich and titled, she was most at home in the exquisite simplicity of the lovely *baside* des Fanaux.

- Rebecca John



A free spirit: Poppet with her father, Augustus John, in Ireland, 1930

Capt Quentin Smythe VC

Quentin George Murray Smythe, soldier and farmer: born Natal, South Africa 6 August 1916; VC 1942; Office Instructor, Department of Defence, South Africa 1970-81; married 1945 Dale Griffiths (three sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1970), 1970 Margaret Joan Shawwell (died 1980), 1985 Patricia Stamp; died 21 October 1997.

On 5 June 1942 in the Alem Hamza area in the Western Desert the 1st Royal Natal Carabineers attacked an Italian strongpoint. As his platoon commander fell severely wounded, Sergeant Quentin Smythe took command and continued the momentum of the attack.

When his troops came under enfilade fire from a machine-gun nest he attacked it with hand-grenades and captured the crew. Although wounded in the head and now weak from loss of blood, he continued to lead the advance, stalking an anti-tank position. He launched his attack armed only with rifle and bayonet and captured it single-handed, killing several of the enemy. For this courageous action he became the first South African of the Second World War to be awarded the Victoria Cross. He was the last surviving South African VC when he died.

Quentin Smythe was the son of Edric Smythe and the grandson of Charles Smythe, the first Administrator of Natal. After an education at Eastcourt High School in Natal he joined the 1st Natal Carabineers and served with them in the successful East African campaign against the Italians.

The South African Brigade then moved to the Western Desert to reinforce the Eighth Army commanded by Neil Ritchie, who had lost two of his divisions and an armoured brigade when they were sent to Malaya and Burma to prevent the Japanese offensive into South-East Asia. On 26 May 1942, recognising a weakness, Rommel launched a classic attack with his Afrika Korps, sweeping the open southern flank into the rear of the Eighth Army and forcing them back to the Gazala line covering Tobruk, while at the same time fighting to clear a supply route to his Panzer divisions, which were almost out of fuel. The Eighth Army, however, recovered well and fought back, forcing the enemy to take up defensive positions in what became known as "The Cauldron".

On 5 June the South African Brigade was holding a position in the north of the line when Rommel launched a particularly heavy attack, which was not only checked, but counter-attacked. It was during this offensive, 20 miles south of Gazala, that Smythe showed that you can attack the attacker. The situation around him, however, was deteriorating and he was ordered to withdraw. Despite a determined attempt by the enemy to cut him off, fighting all the way, he led his men back to their lines.

After the war he joined the South African Department of Defence and on his retirement returned to farming.

A modest man, fond of shooting and bowls, he was delighted when he was awarded, in recognition of his gallantry, the Freedom of the City of Durban.

- Max Arthur

Jonathan Silver

Jonathan Silver, retailer and gallery owner: born Bradford, West Yorkshire 21 October 1949; married 1972 Maggie Jackson (two daughters); died Wetherby, West Yorkshire 25 September 1997.

Jonathan Silver was a self-proclaimed "romantic capitalist" whose entrepreneurial talent and visual flair made the huge Victorian mill at Salfaire near Bradford the most original example of industrial regeneration by means of the arts in Britain.

Salts Mill, built in the 1850s on the banks of the River Aire, along with the model village of Salfaire to house its workers, was the creation of Titus Salt, Bradford's greatest 19th-century textile baron, a man who, like Jonathan Silver, combined extraordinary business acumen with a belief that there was more to business than simply making money.

Silver bought Titus Salt's mill in 1987 from the firm of Illingworth Morris, who had re-

cently abandoned cloth-making there and left the mill empty. Almost immediately, he established a gallery to show works by his old friend, and fellow native of Bradford, David Hockney.

This was no ordinary gallery. Silver always prided himself on the fact that converting a former spinning room at the mill into a gallery cost him only a few thousand pounds, while turning 19th-century warehouses at Liverpool into the Tate of the North cost the taxpayer millions. Full of sound and colour, Jonathan Silver's gallery shows off the Yorkshire stone of the original interior and presents art in a manner that is the antithesis of the conventional art gallery. Paintings hang from the mill's old heating pipes, his (and Hockney's) favourite opera resonate between cast iron pillars, *objets trouvés* lie scattered across the flagstone floor, buckets of scented lilies squat on every surface, and novels, postcards and posters are on sale among the paintings.

The result is a gallery that combines paintings with music, original works with reproductions, and culture with commerce in a way that is utterly captivating. With some 12,000 visitors a week, the gallery is one of the busiest in the country.

Alongside the gallery, in deserted weaving and cloth-finishing sheds, Silver promoted a succession of theatrical and operatic productions, finding an outlet for his own impulsive energy, his bottomless fund of ideas and his delight in flouting convention.

The first was Opera North's community production of *West Side Story* (1988), which had its audience chasing the action around a vast, single-storey space that had previously housed 1,200 looms. It was followed by the Royal National Theatre's production of *Tony Harrison's play The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus* (1990), and later a production of Harrison's *Poetry or Bust* (1993), specially commissioned by Silver, which recounted with clog-dancing

and bitter humour the rise and fall of the 19th-century "Airedale Poet", John Nicholson, who had worked for Titus Salt.

At the same time Silver opened two more Hockney galleries, a diner and a clothes shop in the mill, and, crucially, let space there for both retail and industrial use. Other young entrepreneurs were drawn to this vibrant, seductive milieu to establish fast-growing new businesses, most notably the immensely successful Pace Microtechnology. By 1995 more than a thousand people were working at Salts and the bulk of the mill's million square feet of floor space was occupied.

Irrepressible entrepreneurship and a passion for the visual arts were two threads that ran together through Jonathan Silver's life. He was born in Bradford and attended Bradford Grammar School, where alongside ventures selling pens and pencils to his fellow pupils and eggs to local housewives, he began buying and selling antiques in his lunch hours. While a

schoolboy he also struck up an early acquaintance with David Hockney, a former pupil at the school, persuading the rising young artist to supply the cover for a school magazine.

He left school in 1967, spent a short period in the Israeli army in the aftermath of the Six Day War, and then went to Leeds University to study textiles and art history. On graduation, he established the first of what by 1979 had become a chain of 13 Jonathan Silver shops across the North and the Midlands, selling fashionable men's clothing.

Silver was strikingly handsome as a young man and something of a dandy; the success of his shops reflected both his keen appreciation of the changes in men's fashion that had emerged from the London boutiques of the 1960s and his love of striking a deal.

Never sentimental about business, he sold his clothes shops in 1979 and subsequently joined Ernest Hall in redeveloping redundant mill buildings, including Dean

Clough at Halifax. The partnership did not last, hardly surprising given Silver's impatience with any limitations on his freedom of manoeuvre, but he always acknowledged the immense amount he learnt from Hall and they remained friends. With the end of the partnership he embarked on a new, non-commercial adventure - a two-year journey round the world with his beloved wife and daughters. On his return, after some soul-searching, he bought Salts Mill, which he had known since childhood.

Silver would have loved to have been a painter, but his remarkable visual talents lay elsewhere. Always at heart a retailer, he created shops and galleries that were not just visual delights, but accessible, welcoming and good value. Obsessive and romantic about all his projects, he could be exasperating but he was never dull. He believed passionately that making money, presenting the arts and inspiring the public should go hand in hand.

- John Styles



Silver at Salts Mill

Photograph: Country Living

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS
SUPPLIES: To Emma (née Loveday) and Julian, a son, Hugh George Loveday, on 24 October 1997.

DEATHS
HATTON: Maurice, died on 25 October 1997. A commemorative service will be held at St Anne's, 35 Dean Street (corner of Shaftesbury Avenue), on Wednesday 5 November at noon. Donations to the National Gallery of Children's Art c/o Simons Moultrie & Burton, 50 Broadwick Street, W1V 1PF. A wider celebration of his life and work will be announced at a later date.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen visits RAF Halton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, to mark the 75th anniversary of the RAF Apprentice Training Scheme. The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Friends of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association in Wellington, New Zealand. The Queen Mother unveils the Arctic Campaign Memorial plaque in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. The Princess Royal, President of the Children's Fund, launches the Children's Fund Appeal on board HMY Britannia, Glasgow.

BIRTHDAYS
Mr Russ Ballard, rock musician and singer, 50; Miss Barbara Bui Geddes, actress, 75; Mr Eddie Charlton, snooker player, 68; Mr Michael Collins, astronaut, 67; Mr Hugh Crutwell, former Prisoner, 78; Miss Dale Evans, actress and singer, 85; Viscount Rainsford, former Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall, 78; Dr Ian Field, General Secretary, World Medical Association, 64; Mr Dick Francis, novelist, 77; Mr Edward Gould, Master, Macclesfield College, 54; Miss Lee Grant, film and television actress, 68; Mr John Gunter, theatrical designer, 59; Mr Alastair Hetherington, former Editor, the *Guardian*, 78; Mr Michael Hoffman, former deputy chairman and chief executive, Thames Water, 58; Mr H.R.F. Keating, crime novelist, 71; Mr Barrie Keefe, playwright, 52; Mr Michael Kitchen, actor, 49; Professor Robert Mahler, physician, 73; Mr Charles Moore, Editor, the *Daily Telegraph*, 41; Mr Tom O'Connor, comedian, 57; Sir Jimmy Saville, television and radio personality, 71; Mr John Sweetman, politician, 1980. Today is All Hallows' Eve and the Feast Day of St Bee or Bega, St Follan of Fosses, St Quentin or Quintinus and St Wolfgang.

Anniversaries
Births: John Evelyn, diarist and founder of the Royal Society, 1620; Jan Vermeer (Johannes Van Der Meer), painter, 1632; Mendelert Hobbes, painter, 1638; John Keats, poet, 1795; Philo Remington, typewriter and small-arms manufacturer, 1816; Chiang Kai-shek, Chinese leader, 1887. Deaths: William Au-

LAW REPORT: 31 OCTOBER 1997

Jury ballot by number did not render trial a nullity

Although it was desirable that in normal circumstances the usual procedure for empanelling a jury should be followed, there could be no objection to withholding jurors' names in a case where an attempt at jury noddling was suspected, provided the defendant's right of challenge was preserved.

Regina v Comerford Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Bingham, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Potts and Mr Justice Butterfield) 28 October 1997

export of large amounts of cocaine from South America to Europe by sea. Jonathan Goldberg QC and Peter Ladd (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellants; Simon Dryden (Solicitor; HM Customs & Excise) for the Crown.

Lord Bingham CJ said that the grounds of appeal related to an order made and a procedure adopted in relation to the jury at the outset of the second trial. The first jury had been discharged following an *ex parte* public interest immunity application by the Crown. Before the start of the second trial the Crown applied for police protection of the jury, giving no reasons and calling no evidence in support of the application. The defence opposed the application, but the judge ruled that the jury should be given protection at the highest level.

Before the swearing of the second jury, the judge ruled that their names should not be

read in open court but that they should be called by numbers. Defence counsel, having had no time to consider this procedure, raised no objection. No challenges were made and the jury were sworn. Shortly afterwards, defence counsel submitted to the judge that the procedure adopted for the swearing of the jury was unlawful. The judge ruled against that submission.

Intimidation of a jury was fortunately unusual. However, cases did arise in which attempts were made to "noddle" the jury. Where an attempt to do so was apprehended, jurors would be afforded such protection as was judged necessary to protect them against unlawful approach or communication, whether intimidatory or corrupt. The affording of such protection, however, carried its own dangers. Those dangers would deter a judge from ordering high-level protection of the jury unless he were con-

vinced that there was a real and present danger of noddling unless protection were given. The question for the court was whether the conviction was unsafe because the judge had made the order for jury protection without requiring the Crown to give reasons or call evidence. The defence had now been informed that there was a potentially compelling evidence before the judge of an attempt to noddle the first jury, and that a person had been seen making a written note of their names. Further disclosures had been made to the judge and to the court, but still remained secret from the defence. It was plainly highly desirable that all possible information should be disclosed to the defence, but there was nothing in the procedure adopted in the present case in relation to jury protection which caused the court to consider the conviction unsafe.

It had also been submitted that the omission to name the jurors in open court rendered the trial a nullity. It was plain that there had been a departure from the standard practice, but the mere fact of that departure did not render the trial a nullity, unless it violated the appellant's legal rights or caused unfairness. It had been argued that section 12(3) of the Juries Act 1974 contained a mandatory requirement that names be called, but the court did not so read the section. Counsel had objected to the procedure for empanelling the jury as soon as practicable, but the court was not persuaded that any irregularity was involved. Had the appellant been denied his right to challenge jurors he would, on the authorities, be entitled to have his conviction quashed, and to an order for a *venue de novo*. That had not, however, been the case. The appeal would be dismissed.

- Kate O'Hanlon

Set the rebels free: the case for a breakaway Tory party



EDITOR: ANDREW MARR
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,
CANARY WHARF,
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171-345 2435

Rift in powerless talking shop; not many hurt. Is this how we should report the turmoil in the Conservative party? Most people in Britain, let alone most readers of *The Independent*, feel that the affairs of the once-most-formidable electoral machine in the western world are of little interest. So Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke hold the same views now they are hollow husks that they held when they were filled with the energy and lustre of power. So some junior minister, now a shadow of his former self, has had enough and quit his post over Europe. So some silver-haired, silver-tongued Tory backbencher yesterday decided not to defect to Labour. So what? The Tories lost the election badly enough to be marginalised for the foreseeable future, or even for the next 10 years.

As for the contention over Europe which poisoned and enervated politics for the past five years, was it not Gordon Brown, a big man filled with the impor-

ance of office and the ability to take decisions, who had the wind of history behind him this week when he charted our nation's course towards a new currency?

Well, all this may be true, but democracy needs opposition. In the six months since the election, perhaps we had no right to expect the shell-shocked Tories to provide one. What is alarming is that there seems little prospect of their doing so for some time to come.

This is hardly William Hague's fault. There must have been many times since the summer when he felt that his first instinct – not to stand for the leadership yet – was right. Sometimes parties are unreadable, even ones with histories of pragmatism and flexibility in pursuit of power.

The time has come to say clearly that the country would be better served by two Conservative parties rather than one. Responding to the Chancellor's statement on the single currency on Monday, Mr

Clarke rose from the notionally Anti benches to criticise Mr Brown for being insufficiently Pro. Yesterday, Mr Heseltine went on the *Today* programme to say that his party had got it all wrong and that the Tories should not cut themselves off from business interests, which are "basically" pro-European. "We should say we will join as soon as our economies make that possible," he said.

We can only stand back and admire the skill with which the Prime Minister has finally taken a stand against the tide of public opinion. He is going to try to persuade an apathetic and sceptical public to give up the pound, and has ensured that Messrs Clarke and Heseltine lead the way in arguing his case.

But why not legitimise them? Let them speak as free spirits rather than party rebels. The Chancellor wasted much time in the Commons yesterday with pointless taunting of a divided opposition. How much more grown-up it would be if all concerned

could accept that the Conservative pro-euro grouping, headed by the former Deputy Prime Minister and the Chancellor, were a separate party. As things stand, it is a party within a party, albeit not a hole-in-the-corner entryist minority. Mr Clarke was supported in the leadership election by 40 per cent of Conservative MPs and majorities in the wider party.

The Tory party will be split down the middle, then, in the likely referendum on joining the euro, one of the fundamental issues of our time. Of course, the Labour Party managed to get through a referendum on Europe on which it voted both ways – and that was while it was in government. But it makes honest and open public debate difficult, to say the least, if it is constrained by party discipline and confused by arguments about loyalty.

At the next election, should the British people not have a wider choice than a Labour government committed to the euro and a Conservative party opposed to it?

Yes, there will be the Liberal Democrats, snuggled close to Mr Blair, but should the electorate not also have the chance to vote for the policies of Heseltine, Clarke and Chris Patten? By its sudden decision last week to oppose a single currency for 10 years, the shadow Cabinet consigned to the outer darkness a proud pro-European Conservative tradition. Maybe it deserved to die, but surely the British people should have been the executioners, rather than a hunch of shadow ministers participating in private over Labour's temporarily out-of-control spin.

The reason, of course, why One Nation pro-European Tory MPs do not break away from their party is that they would not survive in our electoral system. It requires electoral reform to set them free. That is – another – powerful argument for electing the House of Commons on a proportional system, and a good reason to hold the Government to its promise of an early referendum on voting reform.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor
and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Price of childcare

Sir: Do you truly believe that flawed childcare is only endemic in America?

David Cohen compares sub-standard US care to that of a UK NNEB nanny ("The au pair in America: an accident waiting to happen", 29 October). How many UK families use NNEB nannies? Au pair agencies here in Britain are a thriving business. The contract and wages paid to au pairs in America are not at all dissimilar to those in England. Throughout the war in the former Yugoslavia, Bosnian girls came in droves to British agencies. How could references possibly have been checked? And shame on the agencies and clients enjoying the cheap-and-cheerfulness of these women.

Childcare has become lost in the labyrinth of the western market economy, and it is children who have lost out. Parents either do not or cannot pay the price for qualified care.
ELENA CHILL
London SW15

Sir: American attitudes to in-house childcarers can be deeply ambivalent (report, 29 October). My family lived in the eastern United States for five years. During that time two British NNEB nannies in succession looked after our two small children while we worked outside our home. These highly-trained and capable young women were faced with contempt among their American contemporaries for being "in-house workers". The same snobbish attitude prevailed among parents of our children's American friends. This made the nannies' social lives very difficult, and loneliness was a real problem, through no fault of theirs, as both were bright and sociable. Not for nothing is there such a dearth of American trained nannies, and of American au pairs.

There was also much disapproval among local parents for the salaries that we paid. Though mere dollar-translations of UK rates, they were seen as dangerously generous compared to the poverty wages paid to local childcare workers, including nursery school teachers. The mixture of contempt and meanness which characterises some Americans' attitudes is something that too

few non-Americans are prepared for. Unless both prospective American parent-employers and their foreign au pairs and qualified nannies are given thorough preliminary briefings, there will be no end to the disappointments – and the accidents.
CAROLINE DOGGART
London SW3

Scientific trials

Sir: Your article "Are scientific trials blind to suffering?" (28 October) fails to distinguish between clinical trials of treatments and prevention trials. This confusion has led to the assertion that cancer patients who enter a clinical trial may receive an inactive placebo rather than an anti-cancer drug. This is untrue.

Clinical trials involve tests of alternative forms of treatment in patients with the disease in question, whereas

prevention trials are designed to test interventions which may possibly prevent healthy people from developing the disease.

The design of cancer treatment clinical trials involves two or more treatment "arms". None of these treatment arms will ever involve patients receiving only an inert placebo. One of the arms of the trial will normally consist of the current standard treatment for the form of cancer being studied. The other arms of the trial will be alternative treatments which are thought to offer the possibility of improved survival.

No patient in a clinical trial will ever receive a treatment which is not considered by experts to be at least as good as the best existing treatment.

KENNETH CAMPBELL
Information Officer
Leukaemia Research Fund
London WC1

Rebel MEP

Sir: I was grateful for your leading article "Let your members off the leash, Mr Blair", 24 October) on the disciplinary storm in Strasbourg, when four MEPs were excluded from the meetings of the European Parliamentary Labour Party. Our crime was to refuse a gagging order under a recent "Code of Practice" issued by the Labour Party's NEC. Had such an order been issued to Westminster MPs, it would have unquestionably been a breach of privilege. The Code of Practice and its subsequent disciplinary consequences will be examined by the appropriate body in the European Parliament, and we must await its decision.

You were wrong, however, in saying that "it was only through the inactivity of the Labour machine" that we were elected to the European Parliament last time. You for-

get that this was the party of John Smith. In 1994, the Labour Party manifesto for the European elections was called "Make Europe Work For You", anyone who cares to examine that manifesto will see that its proposals are very closely similar to those in my earlier book, *A European Recovery Plan*.

These proposals were at the heart of the reports which I subsequently presented to the European Parliament as Rapporteur of its Temporary Employment Committee. That neither our manifesto nor my reports received any support at all from the present Labour leadership is unfortunately beyond doubt. But that fact makes it all the more important that we should remember that before New Labour there was a more humanistic Party which could quite normally make different choices.
KEN COATES MEP
Brussels

Ethical trade

Sir: Congratulations on your leading article of 29 October. Trade is about real, everyday lives instead of financial speculation.

You are right to point out the huge potential consumers have to change business behaviour by small, simple changes in their own. The era of the vigilante consumer is here. Business did not create it but business had better beware it. People want to feel empathy not just with the products they buy but with the companies that make them.

One very persuasive way of helping consumers along is by telling them the stories behind the products they buy. Customer loyalty to the Body Shop over the past 21 years is based on this. This knowledge is backed up by our own independent surveys and a MORI poll which showed that 92 per cent of British consumers be-

lieve that British companies should have minimum labour standards.
ANITA RODDICK
The Body Shop
Littlehampton, West Sussex

Mink farming

Sir: Danny Fenman is wrong to suggest that the Government is back-tracking over mink farming (28 October). We are proposing to legislate later this year to prohibit the establishment of any new mink fur farms and to prohibit the keeping of other fur species. We are considering the response to our public consultation on these proposals before deciding our next step. It is not our intention to accept the current status quo in relation to fur farm standards.
ELLIOT MORLEY
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food
London SW1

Walking in London

Sir: Your article "The new Battle of Trafalgar" (29 October) raises issues that are key to improving walking in the capital.

A report issued yesterday by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, confirmed that people in London walk more often and further than anywhere else in the country. Most people walk around shops and arrive at restaurants and cinemas on foot. And of course, the majority of visitors and tourists see the sights of London on foot. If London is not a pleasant place to walk in, it will not survive as a lively and successful city.

Some simple, but effective, measures can improve things for the pedestrian – adequate pavement space, more surface crossings, upgraded subways with proper lighting, and more green-man crossings.

Recent schemes, such as the South Bank Spine Route, are good examples of how this can be achieved. But there are areas crying out for more sympathetic treatment, such as Elephant and Castle, Vauxhall Cross, and the area outside Waterloo Station. We have made great progress over the last few years. We need to keep up the momentum.
IRVING YASS
Director of Transport and Planning
London First
London SW1

Update: no change

Sir: Oh dear. I fear that the Director of TV Licensing (Letters, 28 October) may have missed the point. Naturally "legitimate" black-and-white (or even non-) viewers understand why enquiries have to be made. Our objection is to being asked to "update" a situation which has not changed.
BRIGID PURCELL
Norwich

Maths made in heaven

Sir: I was delighted to read of Nancy J Hoffman, curator of the Umbrella Cover Museum (Weather, 30 October). Should she not be introduced to Perri 6, of the think tank Demos? Were they to marry, he could refer to her as his better half.
TIMOTHY PITT-PAYNE
London N19

Want to know the Icelandic for 'sandcastle'? Just ask an Albanian ...



MILES KINGDON

It's time to bring you some more thoughts on life from the great *Book of Albanian Proverbs*.

Albanian proverbs, just to remind you, are quite different from ours.

Our proverbs sound fairly silly, but turn out to be full of sense. Albanian proverbs sound remarkably wise to begin with, but never quite seem to get there.

Or do they? Here is a further selection from the book of wisdom.

Never sue a drowning man for libel.

A saint's life is a hard one, but in consolation the pension rights are eternal.

A five-legged animal is totally impractical. That is why they have all long since become extinct.

Many a vicar has organised a disco night in the basement, but no disco owner has ever opened a church upstairs.

Yes, but who is dog's best friend?

Did the pterodactyl ever think for a single moment that he might one day become extinct?

Nobody ever uses punctuation when they are talking.

In the Icelandic language there is no word for "sandcastle".

People who prefer the old herbal remedies which our forefathers used – and mothers used, would do well to remember that our forefathers and – mothers died younger and sooner and quicker and more painfully than we do.

If an officer in the Salvation Army goes absent without leave, is he recaptured, brought back and forgiven?

An artist who paints his self-portrait does so not because he likes his own appearance, but because nobody else likes his work well enough.

Many people are convinced that somewhere in the universe there is bound to be a

world with a life system very like ours. But how can people be so cruel as to wish that on anyone?

You can survive an eightsome reel without prior experience, but no one ever tangoed unwittingly.

Ten years ago nobody knew that the Irish could dance, and now suddenly they are sweeping the world. So there is hope for the Welsh yet.

No wonder the Queen looks old. She is the only person who has two birthdays a year.

There is no word for "cannibalism" in the language of any society that practises

cannibalism.

Everyone knows what folk music is, but nobody knows who folk are, and no one ever thinks of himself as being "folk".

A telescope is a device to enable you to avoid looking at yourself.

Walt Disney adapts everything, but nobody ever adapts Walt Disney.

One might as well try making a statue out of porridge, or use lipstick to execute a large painting.

The Holy City has never known a moment's holy peace.

The Eternal City is always falling to bits. So how is Gay Paree getting on?

Solar eclipses don't really come to an end. They simply move on somewhere else where we can't see them.

The only really terrifying ghosts are not the ones who come out at night, but the ones you can see by day.

Foundation stone: the name given to the very last piece added to a building, with a gift added by an anonymous royal.

However stupid the public may be, they have never short lunar panels to heat

their houses.

A bird can always resort to using its legs, but it's hard for an animal to fall back on its wings.

On a clear night, look at the faintest and furthest star you can see.

On that star there is someone standing, wondering whether there is intelligent life on Earth.

If Baden Powell had not had the good luck to invent scouting, people would always have assumed that he was a spa town somewhere in Germany.

More Albanian wisdom coming soon!

2010/10/31

ERS
tory party

Hague has lost the vital glue of compromise



DONALD
MACINTYRE
THE TORIES
COME UNSTUCK

At times like this you can't help thinking of John Major. He would hardly be human if he didn't feel the merest twinge of *schadenfreude*. It was all going to be all right once the Tories had a young fresh Euro-sceptic leader who was clear instead of shilly shallying about like poor old John. The newly bonded, feminisation-attuned Tory party would then be thoroughly united. Except that after 48 hours which have seen a front bench resignation, a prominent backbencher decide not to defect to Labour for the sole reason that he will have more influence conducting a guerrilla war from within, and the party's two biggest figures, Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, launch a devastating attack on the leadership's stance towards the most fundamental issue facing Britain since the war, it no longer quite looks like that.

And of course the Europhobes are outraged. Having put the sacred principle of the pound's survival above party unity for the duration of a parliament, they are baffled that anyone should should be as dissidently principled about wanting to keep open the prospect of British Euro membership, or for the Tories to continue their historic role as a party in touch with the demands of big business. And revelling in the prospect of fighting the next general election in defence of sterling against a party committed in principle by Gordon Brown last Monday to the Euro, they are stunned that some of their colleagues not only think that strategy might consign the party to oblivion for a generation, but are even perturbed that Brown and Blair haven't set a faster pace towards Euro entry. The sceptics had better learn fast, however, because the pro-Europeans will not retreat. The informal coalition of centrist, pro-European forces that Tony Blair has long dreamt of is taking shape.

It's true that some of this, at least in the short term, might have been avoided. Before October's party conference, the three most pro-European members of the Shadow Cabinet - David Curry, Sir George Young, and Stephen Dorrell - staged what turned out to be a short-lived coup. Having been absent at the meeting that had endorsed the previous decision to rule out support of Euro for ten years, all three protested vigorously and forced a compromise. Henceforth backing for Euro would be ruled out for "the foreseeable future" - a sufficiently vague phrase to keep all sides of the party, if not happy, at least quiet. Hague's heart was probably not in this compromise; he is instinctively a deep Euro-sceptic, and he had also won the leadership on a specific promise of opposing Euro for ten years. But in any case he swiftly came under pressure which included, by all accounts, resignation threats from some on the right such as Ian Duncan Smith, the Social Security spokesman, and the leader's own right-hand man, Alan Duncan. At a further lengthy Shadow Cabinet meeting, Hague changed the line back to one that would explicitly commit the party to fight-

ing the next election on a platform of all out opposition to a single currency - which by implication means the duration of the next parliament as well as the present one. The pro-Europeans were unhappy. They had after all been beaten. An effort was made to sugar the pill: they were assured by Hague that this was an "intention" rather than a "commitment"; the manifesto, including the section on Euro would not actually be written until much closer to the election; and the policy would at some point be put to a plebiscite of the membership. But this was scant comfort: it was clear to them that Hague relished the prospect of fighting the next election as the saviour of the pound. To make matters worse, from their point of view, Peter Lilley, after a fairly disastrous performance in response to Gordon Brown's Euro statement in the Commons on Monday used language that came closer than ever before to saying that the Tories were indeed against Euro in principle.

The continued long-term presence in the Shadow Cabinet of the strongly pro-Euro Clarke supporter David Curry is therefore certainly in doubt. But even if Curry does not go in the next few days, there is another row that will come to a head quite soon. The barney call for a referendum on the largely innocuous Amsterdam treaty appears to have been quietly dropped. But there is still the question of how the Party plans to oppose the treaty bill in the Commons. There is every possibility that a significant group of pro-European backbenchers will back the Government in votes on the bill. Yesterday both Ken Clarke and Lord Howe went out of their way to pour cold water on the idea that the Amsterdam treaty was a good *casus belli* for the party. Describing the treaty as a "realistic" document, Howe was at his most lethal, least dead sheep-like, best in warning his party against knee-jerk opposition to the treaty. The words are worth savouring: "The last election showed conclusively that the British people do not reward Euro-sceptic parties at the polls. Tony Blair understands this fact very well, and is seeking to exploit it understandably and shrewdly to the advantage of our country and his party alike."

This devastating analysis precisely illustrates what Hague is up against. It demonstrates that the question of whether the party will actually split is an essentially a second-order one. It could happen: a successful attempt by Europhobes to bounce pro-European candidates off candidates lists for the 1999 European elections could provoke an alternative slate. Hague could conceivably decide to purge persistently defiant backbenchers. A Blair decision in favour of PR could make a new centre-right, Clarke-led grouping a reality. But the real power of the Clarke-Howe-Heseltine (and probably, quite soon, Hurd) axis lies in its capacity not only to help Blair deliver his referendum majority when the moment comes, but in the mean time to inflict great damage on their own party's electoral position unless it takes a more pragmatic stance. Most of them are dangerous precisely because they genuinely believe they have a patriotic duty to say what they are saying. Europe, for them, is if not bigger than party, at least a goal they are not prepared to subordinate to a false unity designed to shore up the anyway slender prospects of a Tory victory in the next election. And anyone who thinks that Clarke, the one politician with any remaining hope of leading his party, will suddenly trim, does not know Clarke. Brown's statement on Monday was criticised in some quarters for not clearly enough resolving the differences between Labour and the Tories on Europe; its profoundly destabilising impact on the Opposition suggests otherwise.



The school run: we have become over-protective of children's physical safety, while careless about their emotions

Photograph: Adrian Dennis

Don't just look to visible abuse, what we take for granted counts more

Once when I was interviewing au-pairs I asked a Danish girl the most predictable question of all. "Do you like children?" I ventured having run out of all other conversation. "No," she replied bluntly, "but I like animals."

No, I didn't give her the job, on the grounds that I had no animals that needed caring for. I felt she could have at least lied a little bit, yet I was struck by her honesty. Not many people are prepared to admit that they don't like children. Not in public anyway. No, we all care enormously about children. We all want the best for them. We want paedophiles hung, drawn and quartered, even fictional works about them hanned.

The latest panics about paedophiles get everyone going. These men should not be allowed out of prison. They are indisputably evil. Yet it is far easier to focus on these few warped individuals than to look at what is really harming children. Unfortunately, as we have seen recently, those legally responsible for children (whether natural parents or carers in state-run children's homes) also abuse children. Surveillance videos showing parents abusing sick children and the massive inquiry into systematic abuse in children's homes in North Wales show that we are not, as we like to make out these days, an enlightened nation of child lovers. All this however makes us so uncomfortable that we would rather project all our hatred onto a few pathetic men than confront our collective ambivalence about the way we treat children.

The Louise Woodward case has generated massive interest because it hits a nerve. Anyone who has left their child with a paid carer in order to go to work - and now there are huge num-

bers of us - has been made more anxious by this tragedy. Working women already feel guilty enough and the media hoopla surrounding this case is designed to make them feel even more uneasy. That hate-mail has already been directed towards Mary Eappen's mother, rather than his father, is no surprise. It is the women in this case who bear the burden of guilt one for leaving a baby, the other for not looking after it properly. As former au-pairs who are now successful journalists crawl out of the woodwork to explain, "I was a teenage werewolf/au-pair", we all nod our heads wisely wondering how a baby could be left with an unqualified eighteen year old. An unqualified eighteen year old could have a few of babies of her own but no one seems to bother about that.

Paedophilia, potentially murderous nannies, institutionalised child abuse - all these are extreme instances of what can go wrong for children. Of course we should be concerned as we sit and say "Isn't it awful?", but if we really care about children as we say we do it would be very easy to improve the quality of many children's lives overnight and I don't mean by executing paedophiles.

This week yet another report has been produced showing that British firms are making very little effort to cut down the number of hours their staff are working, although in France and in Italy governments are pressing employers to move to a 35-hour week. Another report tells us that unpaid overtime has become the curse of the professional classes. That so many people work such long hours has a direct impact on the quality of lives of our children. Some parents even prefer work to home, as it is more reward-



SUZANNE
MOORE
CHILDREN

ing and less stressful than trying to cram in some "quality" time with demanding kids when they are already exhausted.

Any commitment to promoting family life has to do something about the culture of work or it is meaningless. Promotion of family life always sounds so dubiously judgmental that I, for one, would be far happier with a drive that was simply about improving children's lives, never mind what kind of families they come from.

Such an initiative might also strive to do something about the culture of cars, not purely for environmental reasons but because a car is far more likely to kill a child than a paedophile. The presence of cars everywhere restricts children's freedom in fundamental ways.

Car culture leads to a situation in which we over-protect our children physically, not allowing them to roam the streets or even walk to school by themselves. Emotionally however, we under-protect kids by expecting them to jump through educational hoops while still in infant school, in order satisfy the crude demand for statistics.

The rise in depressive illnesses in younger and younger children is partly due to the enormous pressure we put on

them to achieve. The Government inspectors attitude to Summerhill - the epitome of deeply unfashionable child-centred education - shows just how utilitarian our thinking has become in this area. Education for education's sake, education as liberation, education as unstructured discovery. These are already ideas belonging to a different era. Education is now about standards, always someone else's, technology and jobs. Little wonder that the kids are depressed.

Remember one of the advertising posters used in the election was that miserable slogan, "Young offenders will be punished." Curfews, cautions, criminal records: this is what is good for children, or so we expected to believe. Children must work harder than ever - longer school hours in the form of breakfast and holiday clubs. Their mothers should get themselves into the job market as soon as they can. No one should expect something for nothing, for this is the end of "dependency culture".

But children do expect and are right to expect something for

nothing. There is a culture of dependency, which is why they are so vulnerable. When success can only be measured in terms of academic qualifications then many children are doomed to failure. We are not, it seems, much interested in measuring their emotional well-being, only in pointing the finger at those who are clearly in distress.

A "child friendly" culture does not just mean mother and baby changing-rooms in supermarkets; it means a culture that genuinely values its young, that has time for them. It means valuing instead of despising those who work with children - whether they are teachers or nannies or child-minders. We are so far from such a situation because there has to be a collective will to make things better and there isn't. Instead, we each individually want the best for our own particular children, we each express our outrage at yet another terrible crime against other people's children, and we each wash our hands of thinking about how together as a society we might show that we really do love all our children.

Does that TV in the sitting room make your home a prison?

David Roddan, general secretary of the Prison Governor's Association remembers what happened when Michael Howard discovered that 2000 prisoners already had televisions in their cells: "He went fairly ballistic and wanted them all taken away, until we explained that this was not a very sensible operational decision, to attempt to go into 2,000 cells and say 'We know you've behaved well, but because the Home Secretary doesn't like this we're going to take it off you.'"

Here is how the television in cells debate has always been presented to us. Prison management wants to use televisions as a small reward in the cause of reform while proponents of the get tough approach don't want such a luxury interfering with the punishment of offenders. Today we know the truth - that both positions are fictitious. Televisions are not a luxury,

DAVID
BURKE
TELEVISION
IN THE CELLS

they are a necessity for the Prison Office. And it has nothing to do with reforming miscreants. It does, however, tell us something interesting about doing time.

In the last three years, prisons have had to cut their operating costs by 13.3 per cent. In the next three years, they will have to cut an additional 5.3 per cent. What has already happened, and will continue to happen is that prisoners will make up the difference by spending less time out of their cells. And whether you think this is a good thing or a bad thing, the fact remains it will

be a difficult policy to enforce. Inmates of local prisons might be locked up for an extra two to three hours a day. Are they going to be happy about that?

Get this straight: a prison service strapped for cash is buying televisions because it hopes they will have a tranquillising effect on prisoners. Television can then money, that they would have had to spend on other activities. Rodden called television the "greatest control mechanism you can think of"; however, even he's concerned that the tranquilliser could be abused.

"What we're very anxious to avoid," he says "is a psyche within prison staff that says 'Well they've got a TV, they've got a toilet, we only need to unlock them to feed them and to work.'"

If you can't, or don't want to, give people what need to live real lives, stick them in front of a television. Has anyone else thought of this? Of

course! Nursing homes, mental wards, TV's for the elderly, children's day care centres, you name it. Television is the all-purpose booby prize for having missed out on life. To answer criticism of the way it treated baby chimps, a research laboratory in the US has given them television too. Far from being a luxury, television is everyone's cheap option of choice.

Then there's the reform argument, which is just bizarre. It runs like this: inmates are bored; TV alleviates boredom; therefore, somehow, watching soap operas, sitcoms and news shows will help lead prisoners back to a way of life that requires ambition, self-discipline and the ability to get along with other people.

As one prisoner serving life for murder said: "During association we can sit in 'silence' and watch violence, sex murder, and general mayhem. So much for rehabilitation!" There are

also any number of theories and studies showing that television led many inmates to crime in the first place.

One of the most important ingredients in a law abiding life is the ability to withstand and then make use of boredom. You want to do something boring? Try writing every word in the dictionary down on sheets of paper, with definitions, starting with A and ending with Zymotic. That's what a young drug pusher and pimp did in the 60s during his time in solitary confinement. He later gave speeches and wrote articles and books under the name Malcolm X.

How many of us have half that drive and resourcefulness? But you only need a tiny bit. If you can learn to push through boredom, and then find interest in life again, you'll have discovered the key to doing time. We all do time. And those of us who run away from boredom, for hours in

front of the television, become boring and weak. Then we have trouble on the outside.

Which brings us back to the No Luxuries For Prisoners position. That actually says a lot about us. The TVs are cheap and they'll save money on the costs of control. But we desperately assert that they are "too good for criminals" and should be "earned" by only the most penitent. Perhaps when we think of prisoners killing the long hours in their cells by watching *Brookside*, that picture somehow makes us uncomfortable.

Yesterday's leading article in this paper said that inmates who watched television would emerge from prison "more like us". Could it be that, for a long time now, we have chosen to be more like them?

The writer is the British editor of *White Dot* magazine, which campaigns against television.

LOOKING FOR A TREAT?

Come fly with me if you're dark and smooth with good taste and a head for heights. Let's do magic tricks together.

Reply Box 666.

FOUNDERS
FLAVOUR WORTH FINDING

BMW may abandon its UK dealer network

BMW, the German luxury car giant, is considering abandoning its traditional dealer network in the UK. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports on a radical rethink of the way cars are sold and serviced.

The German luxury car giant has called all its UK staff, including about 1,300 employees from dealerships, to a five-day series of seminars at its Bracknell headquarters next week. Kevin Gaskell, managing director of BMW (GB), will tell dealers that the company's conventional garage network could be rendered obsolete by new trends in consumer retailing.

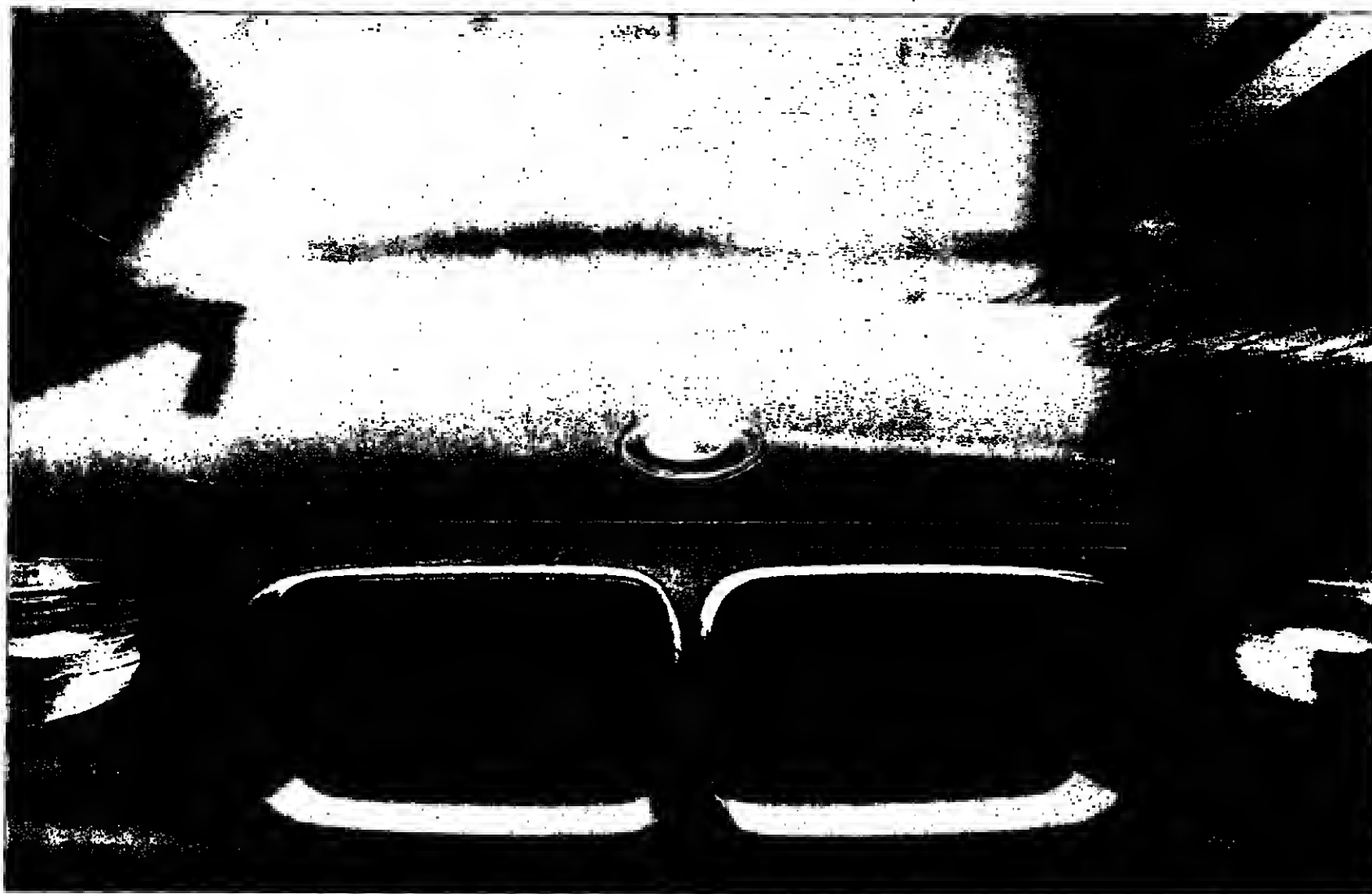
The staff from BMW's 155 British dealerships, most of which are independently owned, will be told that the company should make a "step change" in customer service standards to match retailers like Marks and Spencer and Virgin which Mr Gaskell admires. He said: "We have to get away from comparisons with other manufacturers and look instead at the way the Richard Bransons of this world run their businesses."

Mr Gaskell, who moved to BMW from Porsche last year, said he would be asking dealers to come up with their own solutions, but warned that retaining the traditional garage network in its present form was no longer an option.

"We have to ask some fundamental questions. Why do we need to have showrooms? Why do we need to have servicing facilities? Why can't we come and service the car at the customer's home?"

The proposals have been spurred by moves in the European Commission which would end manufacturers' exclusive rights to sell cars through dealerships. Under the current regime, garages cannot sell different makes of car side by side in the same showroom.

This so-called block exemption comes up for renewal in 2002, but most in the industry believe it will not be replaced, allowing a flood of new entrants into the market. "There would be nothing to stop Richard Branson or Sainsbury's selling our cars and the industry could learn a lot from their brand identity and service standards," said Mr Gaskell. "The case for change is so compelling that those who don't change will fall by the wayside."



Familiar face: BMW's style looks set to remain the same, but the cars may soon be sold in a radically new way

Photograph: Peter MacDiarmid

One idea was to ditch dealer sites completely and deal directly with customers at home, offering test drives and even home servicing, though Mr Gaskell insisted the agenda was not driven by cost-cutting. Already, some 70 per cent of BMW servicing in London involves the dealer collecting the car from the customer. BMW has also recently started offering financial services such as insurance.

The proposals are likely to come as a surprise to some dealers, who have been enjoying an unprecedented surge in

BMW's sales in the UK, which is the company's highest foreign market outside the US. The Munich manufacturer expects to sell 62,000 BMWs in Britain this year, with a three-month waiting list for many models.

One large London dealer, who did not want to be named, said: "We are all waiting to hear what he has to say. They haven't given us any advanced knowledge. I'd hope this will be evolution rather than revolution, but that could be famous last words."

Other manufacturers have also been restructuring their dealer networks, faced with intense competition in the British car market, but BMW's plans are by far the most radical. Fiat has given responsibility for all its London dealerships to a single company, Pendragon, which is now the UK's largest car dealer group. The move has begun a trend towards larger regional empires with direct responsibility for marketing campaigns. Vauxhall is planning to reduce its number of large dealership sites by up to a quarter next year, replacing

them with smaller service-only satellite centres.

However, BMW's plans are likely to precipitate a rear-guard action in the industry by the smaller, independently owned, dealerships. Christopher Macgown, chief executive of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, the car dealers' trade body, doubted whether Mr Gaskell's idea would appeal to owners. "Customers overwhelmingly want to deal with people they know. The dealer concept is rock solid in our opinion for many years to come."

Y&R flotation signals aggressive expansion plans

Young & Rubicam, the fifth-largest marketing services network in the world, is considering a stock market flotation in London and New York. Cathy Newman reports on Y&R's plans to expand and challenge the world's number one player, WPP Group, next year.

Y&R is speaking to advisers about a listing both here and in the US, industry sources said yesterday. The company has three main divisions. They are Young & Rubicam Advertising, the advertising agency, Wunderman Cato Johnson, the direct marketing agency, and Burson-Marsteller, the public relations company.

Two US securities houses, Bear Stearns and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, will underwrite the initial public offering, which is scheduled to take place in the first half of next year. Goldman Sachs and Funnell Setz are also expected to be involved.

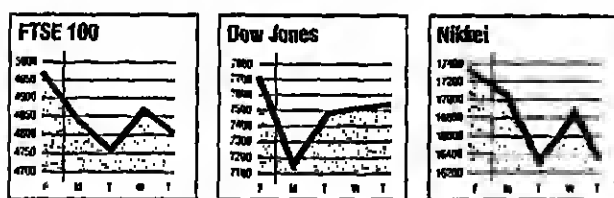
US sources said the flotation would raise around \$400m (£240m) in New York. The funds would be used for aggressive expansion plans, according to observers. Peter Georgescu, chairman and chief executive of Y&R, could not be contacted for comment.

Y&R had income of \$1.3bn and billings of \$1.1bn last year, according to figures from the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the industry body. However, the group lags some way behind giants such as WPP, the world's biggest marketing services network with income of \$3.4bn and billings of \$24.7bn. Omnicom, Interpublic and Dentsu also outflank Y&R. WPP is listed on the London Stock Exchange and on Nasdaq in the US.

Lorna Tibbitt, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, which acts for WPP, says there is certainly room for another player in the market. "The media agency sector is an established sector in the UK," she says. "There is expertise in the sector on both the media-buying and the media-selling side."

Other media agencies which are quoted on the London Stock Exchange include Argus, Cordant, which is shortly to demerge into two separate companies; GGT Group, and public relations businesses such as Shandwick International.

STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	4807.90	-69.90	-1.44	5330.80	3900.40	3.62
FTSE 250	4824.00	-44.10	-0.95	4963.80	4348.10	3.45
FTSE 350	2323.90	-31.50	-1.34	2555.30	1949.20	3.59
FTSE All Share	2277.32	-29.49	-1.28	2492.41	1925.79	3.56
FTSE SmallCap	2305.5	-10.30	-0.45	2406.20	2128.40	3.23
FTSE Realtime	1255.3	-3.10	-0.25	1346.50	1195.70	3.34
FTSE AIM	863.7	-2.0	-0.23	1138.90	686.20	1.02
Dow Jones	7538.63	-33.64	-0.45	8259.31	5693.23	1.78
Nikkei	16364.94	-492.10	-2.92	21418.27	16312.66	0.90
Hong Kong	10362.86	-402.44	-3.74	16673.27	9068.89	4.01
Dax	3727.40	-64.41	-1.70	4438.93	2659.25	2.14

INTEREST RATES

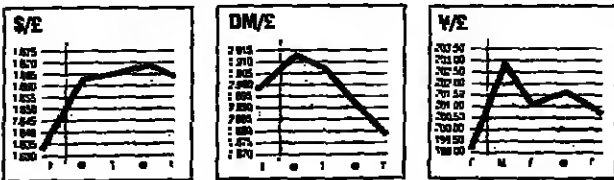


Index	3 months	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr
UK	7.38	1.31	7.56	1.10	6.57	1.02	6.48
US	5.75	0.25	5.91	0.16	5.87	0.55	6.18
Japan	0.53	0.03	0.56	0.04	1.79	4.87	2.41
Germany	3.69	0.53	4.08	0.79	5.60	4.40	6.23

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Whitbread PLC 792.00 45.00 6.02	Son Life & Prov 357.25 -18.25 -4.88
Sainsbury PLC 382.00 14.00 3.80	Templeton E.M. 128.75 -5.50 -4.28
Laurel PLC 266.00 9.50 3.70	Standard Char'd 625.00 -33.00 -5.02
Carlton Comm 493.00 16.00 3.35	Danka 615 -34 -5.24

CURRENCIES



£/Yen	£/DM	£/\$
1.6647 -0.89c	1.6320	1.6007 +0.32p
2.8787 -0.02p	2.4687	1.7287 -0.32p
200.73 -10.98	186.10	120.59 +10.06
102.50 -0.10	90.20	104.80 +0.40

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	19.17	0.23	22.67	GDP	114.00	3.90	109.7
D-Mark (\$)	317.05	3.80	2.4687	D-Mark	17287	-0.32p	15115
Yen (\$)	4.81	0.01	4.83	Base Rates	7.00	8.00	

www.bloomberg.com source: Bloomberg

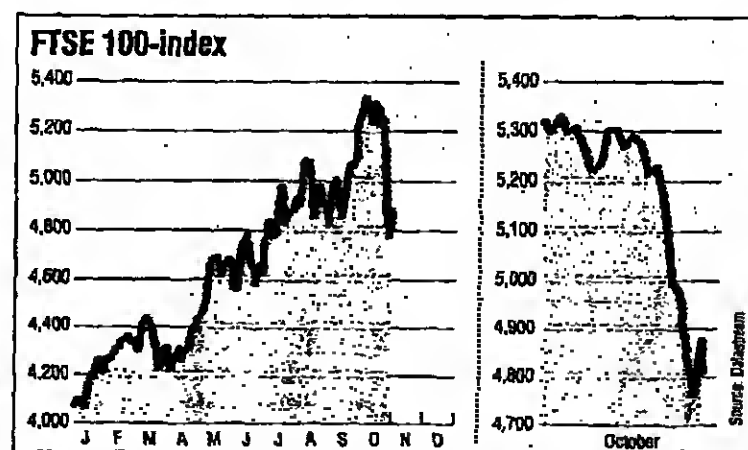
European markets rocked again as Far East shock waves spread

Stock markets across Europe suffered once more yesterday as turmoil again swept across Far East markets. Wild swings in share prices look set to continue while the Far East remains so unstable, reports Andrew Yates.

The FTSE 100 index was sent tumbling in early trading yesterday due to the growing stock market crisis in Hong Kong, which saw the Hang Seng index fall another 3.74 per cent overnight. Hopes of a strong recovery in London after a dramatic plunge over the last week were dashed, and by early afternoon more than 3 per cent was wiped off the value of UK shares.

However, the FTSE rebounded to close down just 69.9 points at 4807.9, having been off 164.5 points at one stage during the session. With all eyes on Wall Street after the Hang Seng's fall, the Dow did not open down as much as feared which signalled the start of the afternoon rally in London. While the Dow Jones index came off nearly 100 points in early dealings it was trading up slightly at 7,538.63 by the time London closed for business.

The fall in Hong Kong sent shock waves reverberating around the main European markets. The French and German bourses were battered by the sharp swings in the Far East, London and New York. However the pattern was the same as in London, with



stocks rallying in afternoon trading as confidence began to return. In Frankfurt the Dax 30 index ended 64.41 points down at 3,727.40. The CAC 40 index in France ended 78.53 points, or 2.8 per cent, lower at 2,739.47. Smaller European exchanges showed similar losses, and markets as far afield as Johannesburg, Istanbul and Mexico City also suffered.

Analysts said the turbulence was likely to continue, with investors remaining jittery. "There's been an awful lot of damage. People are still nervous around the world," said Joseph DeMarco, head of trading at HSBC Asset Management in New York.

"The fear is that Far Eastern markets are signalling fundamental problems with economies worldwide and that is serving to frighten other markets," said John Parrot, head of research at Commercial Asset Management.

The panic-selling that gripped markets early in the week was absent yesterday but there were few buyers in the market. "With the low volumes, the market's just drifting away," said Paul Cowbitt at Panmure Gordon in London. "Everybody's going to be very cautious going into the weekend."

One trader said: "What saved us today was the US bloodbath that failed to materialise." He added: "People are afraid of this market because it's whipping around every day. We're somewhere in the middle of a huge jump but we don't know where."

The overnight slump in Hong Kong prompted the London Stock Exchange to change its share dealing rules. Now 10 minute suspensions of shares will only be triggered by movements of 25 per cent in stock prices instead of the usual 10 per cent.

Market Report, page 27

Investors fear South Korea will be next Asian crisis

Still worried by the direction Wall Street is heading, shares in Asian markets dipped yesterday, after Wednesday's surge. The biggest fall came in South Korea, which is looming into the picture as the next Asian market to be of real concern. Stephen Vines in Hong Kong reports.

As the Korean currency came under pressure the stock market in Seoul fell almost 4 per cent to its lowest point in five years. John Mulcahy, managing director of the stockbrokers WI Carr in Hong Kong, said that investors were worried "that we may have another currency crisis induced from North Asia".

The current problems in Asian markets started in July when the trouble came from the South East, beginning in Thailand and rapidly spreading to Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Yesterday the Thai stock market dropped almost 2 per cent to a nine-year low and the Thai baht fell to a record low against the US dollar.

The continuing decline of the Thai market only served to heighten concern over Korea because it brought back memories of the start of the Thai crisis, which was triggered by pressure on the local currency and was initially thought to be an isolated domestic problem. In the light of this experience no one is sanguine about the situation in Korea, with its big economy and important international trading ties.

Meanwhile in Hong Kong, which had the dubious distinction of driving world markets in recent days, the blue chip Hang Seng index dropped almost 4 per cent, a modest correction in the light of the previous day's near 19 per cent rise.

However there was real concern over a report from the US-based credit rating agency, Moody's, which said it was reviewing its rating for Hong Kong banks in the light of concerns over the security of property loans and trade financing for business with other Asian countries hit by an expected economic downturn. Property-related loans account for around half all lending by Hong Kong banks.

Moody's singled out Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, controlled by the London-listed HSBC Holdings, as requiring special attention, which might result in a downgrading of its relatively high B rating. Most Hong Kong banks carry a C or D rating.

A HSBC spokesman described the Moody's review as "unwarranted" and said the company intended raising the matter with the agency. The fall in the price of HSBC shares accounted for the bulk of the Hang Seng Index's decline yesterday as the counter plunged by 8 per cent.

The Hong Kong government also joined the fray against Moody's, issuing a statement to point out that the territory's banks enjoyed good profitability in the first half of the year and had low levels of bad debt. Experience of defaults on mortgage lending was negligible.

Leakage targets will mean digging up 200,000 front gardens, Anglian Water claims

Anglian Water yesterday claimed it would have to dig up 200,000 front gardens to meet new compulsory leakage targets. Chris Godsmark reports

age rates by 12 per cent next year. He said the company's leakage rates were already some of the lowest in the industry, with 18 per cent of water disappearing before it reached the customer.

The company claimed the new targets would mean digging up the gardens of one in ten of its 1.8 million customers and doubted whether many households would welcome the disruption.

Joining the chorus of in-

dustry protest, Mr Mellor turned the attack on to Ian Byatt, the regulator.

"We've been hit by a target which is pushing us faster than it's economic to go... We will meet these targets but we're questioning whether this is sensible. It seems to be inspired by political considerations rather than rational considerations."

Despite the new targets, Anglian warned it could have to impose its first hosepipe

bans for six years next year if rainfall this winter was well below average.

The company recently applied for drought orders at two reservoirs. "We're in the lap of the gods... The most efficient water company in the world isn't going to supply people if it doesn't rain," said Mr Mellor.

The group kicked off the industry reporting season with a 12.7 per cent boost to dividends to 11.5p for the six

months to the end of September, against a 4 per cent rise in investment to £181.2m.

Mr Mellor, who is to take over from Alan Smith as group managing director from December, admitted that investment would fall in the next two years as Anglian completed big improvement projects. But he said any short term shareholder benefits would be reflected in price cuts in the next five-year price regime from 2001.

Anglian revealed losses of £8.7m after setting aside £131.8m for its winfall tax bill. Excluding the tax, pre-tax profits rose by 6.8 per cent to £141.7m.

Mr Mellor also disclosed that Anglian was now suing its Brazilian partner company CEJEN, over a joint venture water treatment project.

The group has already written off £7.5m on the scheme and did not rule out further charges.

30/11/2015



OUTLOOK ON A SPECULATOR'S WISDOM, MARKET SAFETY MECHANISMS AND THE BUDGETING PROCESS

Soros goes soft on the power of the markets

What a strange chap George Soros is. He's made his fortune and that of many others through the practice of unbridled free market capitalism. But in a lot of what this market speculator and international philanthropist says, he's now kicking against it. He thinks the spread of free market values into every sphere of life morally wrong and socially dangerous, and if he doesn't go quite as far as Marx in believing capitalism will eventually destroy itself, he does seem to think that if markets are not properly checked and controlled they could end up "destroying society".

In an interview with Anthony Giddens, the sociologist, just published in the *New Statesman*, he gives vent to this worryingly apocalyptic view of the world. Mr Soros may largely have bought his voice on the world stage, but because he is such a successful and large scale international speculator he deserves to be heard. The interview was actually recorded back in May, so his remarks about the way markets move in unexpected and chaotic ways seem particularly prescient.

Whether he already had in mind at that stage his later attack on the currencies and stock markets of the Pacific Rim is not clear. But perhaps the most striking thing about this interview is that Mr Soros continues to profit hugely from the very anomalies he thinks most dangerous.

If Mr Soros has no difficulty reconciling his warnings with his practice, he'll surely understand that the rest of us might find it just a little bit hypocritical. On the one hand he warns about "inherent in-

stability" in markets with "nothing to hold them", the social division caused by the accumulation of wealth in the global economy, and the sometimes brutal social consequences of the free flow of capital; on the other hand, there he is helping to cause the chaos by trashing the Malaysian ringgit and the Thai baht. You cannot argue both for capital as a force for good in the world and a force for evil.

However, there is some wisdom amid the hypocrisy and the philosophical gobbledegook. The belief that markets, when left to their own devices, always tend towards equilibrium, is just plain wrong, he argues. In fact, when everyone has the same level of knowledge, as increasingly they do in this era of global information, then markets become inherently unstable and chaotic because they are driven by the subjective rather than the objective, people's view of what is happening rather than what is actually happening. What Mr Soros seems to be saying is that sentiment becomes the dominant force.

Moreover, because nation states and their central banks apply very different approaches to the markets and the global economy, big fluctuations occur. Markets move out of equilibrium, catastrophe only being averted by international intervention. His prescription for all these ills is more supervision and regulation, accompanied by a much greater degree of international co-operation at a political level to match the globalisation of financial markets. What is lacking is the ability of society to impose constraints on the market,

he says. Since it is the movement of capital which is globalising the world economy, he suggests that perhaps some international way of taping the accumulation of capital ought to be found so as "to provide the basis for social insurance". How odd. We used to call that socialism.

Circuit-breakers should be global

Here are two conflicting views of the circuit-breakers and other trading limits introduced to Wall Street post the 1987 crash in the hope of avoiding a repeat performance. The first is that they acted as they should have done this week by halting Monday's plunge in the Dow at 550 points and thereby prevented the sell-off turning into a rout. The second is that they compounded the panic and caused a wholly unnecessary plunge in other world markets, which were left in the unfortunate position of having to guess where Wall Street would have ended had it been allowed to carry on trading.

Both views are correct. When trading was halted at the 550 cut-off point, the market was in free fall. Real panic had set in and traders were being swamped with sell orders. A bandwagon was building and things could have turned very nasty indeed. By stopping the clock, investors were given a night to sleep on it. As is often the case, things didn't look quite so bad the next morning.

The alternative view is that the circuit breakers accentuated the fall by giving the bears 50-

point target breaks to aim at. As one threshold was broken it seemed only natural to aim for the next. Worse, when trading was finally halted, markets in other time zones were left all at sea over what to do. The initial response in London was to plunge 450 points. By the time it became apparent this was an over-reaction, many small investors had sold out, leaving the big boys to clean up yet again.

A free market purist would argue that no barriers should be placed in the way of stock trading. Markets will always find their own level; by trying to stop them, regulators only make the situation worse. There is something to be said for this approach, but it is equally plain that the precipitous fall of 1987 was an over-correction in part caused by computer-driven selling. The computers had been programmed to sell automatically at stop-loss levels. In other words, the panic was compounded by machines. This would seem to be as much a distortion of the market as imposed trading limits. Circuit-breakers have the effect of curtailing this madness and that's why the Brady Commission, set up after the crash, recommended them.

Brady went further, however, by suggesting that these limits would not work properly unless they were co-ordinated across the world's stock markets. He's just been proved right. A feature of the present turmoil has been the way the contagion spreads around the world. The 7 per cent plunge in the Dow translated to a 20 per cent crash in the Hang Seng and a near 10 per cent fall in the FTSE 100. The plunge

in some emerging markets was worse still. None of these markets had trading limits. Interestingly, the fall in the Nikkei, where limits were imposed, was far less severe.

The lesson seems to be that it is no good the US imposing limits on its own markets if nobody else does. Either there is international agreement and co-operation on this, or there should be no limits anywhere. The other obvious reform, should Wall Street decide to keep the circuit-breakers, is to make them far wider than the present 50 point breaks. These parameters were set when the market was less than half its present level. Plainly they are now out of date and inappropriate.

Green Budget is welcome

Gordon Brown is to deliver his first Green Budget on November 25. For a while, this was the time of year when the real Budget was delivered, wrapping it in with the Autumn statement on spending. Mr Brown has decided to return the real thing to its traditional month of March. Does any of this timing and timing make much difference? It is obviously a good thing for the Chancellor to consult on the broad outline of his tax and welfare proposals, but as with most other green papers, the Government generally ends up doing what it wants to do anyway. All the same, anything that takes the speculative heat out of the budgeting process and makes it more open to analysis and criticism is to be welcomed.

Further investment sought for Britain's best-known bicycles

Raleigh, Britain's biggest bicycle maker, is seeking additional investors that could lead to the historic marque changing hands once more. Nigel Cape, City Correspondent, reports on a possible change of ownership for the 110 year-old group that has been in American hands for a decade.

Raleigh has been talking to UK venture capital groups about possible financial backing and it is thought that a deal could be imminent. A full sale could value Raleigh at more than £100m.

Raleigh, which employs more than 1,000 workers at its Nottingham plant, has been owned by Derby International, the vehicle of a group of American investors since 1987. But it is thought that Ed Gottsman, the US lawyer who owns 35 per cent of Derby, may be keen to realise some of the value of his investment.

Mr Gottsman has a string of personal investments including the Royal Worcester chinaware company and Fila sportswear. And in March his Piedmont International business acquired the loss-making Olivetti Computer for £115m. UK venture capital groups have been looking at Raleigh in recent months but it is thought

that a deal may be struck with another American buyer. However, it is thought there are no plans to end bike production in the UK.

The company declined to comment on a possible sale but did confirm Raleigh was seeking additional investors. "They [the current owners] are not running away," a spokesperson said. Another possibility is that Raleigh is raising fresh funds to buy more bicycle businesses.

If Mr Gottsman did decide to pull out altogether he would pocket a healthy return on his investment. Derby International paid just £18m for Raleigh in 1987 when the then-troubled industrial conglomerate TI Group was a relieved seller.

Founded in 1887, Raleigh remains Britain's largest bicycle maker with a 26 per cent market share. It is comfortably ahead of its nearest competitors such as the Tandem group which makes the Claud Butler, Falcon and British Eagle bikes and has 20 per cent of the market. Halfords, part of Boots, has 14 per cent.

The most recently filed accounts for Raleigh Industries show that in the year to 31 December 1995 the company recorded a loss of £1m on sales of £69.6m. This compared to a £1.2m profit in the previous year, though the 1995 figures were affected by £2.2m of exceptional items to cover the costs of discontinuing its fork and frame business.

Though Raleigh says it is pleased with the way it has been trading, it has been battling against a difficult market. The UK bike market has been flat in recent years averaging around 2.2 million bikes per year. It has been badly affected by cheaper imports from the Far East.

Though Raleigh's margins are slim it still has the most resonant brand name in British bicycling and would be a valuable asset for a trophy-seeking buyer.

It was founded by Frank Bowden, a lawyer who only became interested in cycling when his doctor advised him to take it up for health reasons. But from its halcyon days in the 1950s, when it employed 8,000 workers, it slipped a gear in the 1960s. It was taken over by TI Group, the industrial conglomerate, though the flood of cheap imports and the boom in BMX bikes meant it was not a happy episode for either party. TI sold out to Derby International in 1987. The new owners implemented a rationalisation programme which saw half of the 65-acre site sold off for housing and the workforce reduced.

But UK bike companies which include Moor Large and Dawes, have been fighting an uphill battle against the increasing popularity of the car. In the UK, bicycles account for just 2 per cent of journeys compared to 27 per cent in Holland and 11 per cent in Germany.



Looking at alternatives: Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive (left), and Robert Brace, group finance director, yesterday Photograph: Lui Xavir

BT insists it still has a role in the battle for MCI

Senior British Telecom executives yesterday said the company would play a significant role in the three-way bidding war for MCI, the US long distance phone giant. The comments came as BT's £510m windfall tax bill plunged the group into its first ever quarterly loss. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, insisted in his first public comments since WorldCom stunned the industry with its \$30bn (£18bn) rival all-share bid for MCI that the UK group's strategy had not been blown off course. "This is not over by a long

way," he said, adding that BT had "significant rights" over the outcome because of its 20 per cent stake in MCI.

"We are looking at various alternatives. We have an investment in MCI which is a very valuable investment... We obviously have significant rights as a 20 per cent shareholder."

Sir Peter declined to give details of BT's powers to delay a hostile bidder from taking over MCI, though WorldCom has filed a court action in Delaware to try to remove some of these rights. They include the \$450m penalty clause which MCI would have to pay to BT if it recommended a deal without the UK group's approval.

Sir Peter confirmed that he had held talks with Bernard Ebbers, chief executive of WorldCom, and Chuck Lee, chairman of GTE. He hinted that GTE, the local phones group which has offered \$25bn in cash for MCI, was

BT's preferred partner in a possible three-way alliance. BT's takeover offer, valuing MCI at some \$24bn, remains on the table. "We'd rate most of the players in the industry as good players. We know GTE well and we've known them for some time."

Mr Ebbers last night said WorldCom remained hopeful of an agreement with BT and MCI. "We are currently involved in ongoing, substantive talks with MCI and BT and are pleased with the progress," he said as WorldCom unveiled a 31 per cent surge in third quarter pre-tax profits, to \$234m.

Sir Peter also disclosed that BT had received several approaches from other telecoms groups. "With BT's image around the world a lot of people in the industry want to work with BT."

Analysts predicted the discussions could take months before the final out-

come was clear. Jim Ross, from stockbrokers Hoare Govett, warned: "BT is a well managed company but there's now a lot of uncertainty over the merger. On that basis the share price may have over-reached itself." BT shares slid 4.5p to 257p.

BT yesterday revealed after-tax losses of £38m between July and September, after setting aside £510m to cover the windfall tax. Excluding the charge, quarterly operating profits rose by 5.6 per cent, to £813m. Half-yearly pre-tax profits, including the windfall tax, were almost halved to £565m.

Other one-off costs included £40m to cover BT's share of problems with Cellnet's computer billing system and £120m to compensate for losses on outstanding employee share options resulting from the recent share special dividend.

Mitsubishi chiefs quit over 'gangster pay-off' scandal

Two giant Japanese corporations yesterday became the latest casualties of the spiralling Japanese "gangster pay-off" scandal, which has already led to dozens of resignations among senior directors and executives at several of the country's biggest securities houses and banks.

Eikemon Kimura, president of Mitsubishi Motors—one of the world's biggest car makers—and the company's chairman, Hirokazu Nakamura, said they would resign over the scandal.

Separately Toshiba, the electronics giant, publicly admitted making payments to alleged racketeers. An internal investigation is being held.

The resignations at Mitsubishi followed news last week

that company executives had made illegal pay-offs to alleged Japanese extortionists, known as *sokaiya*. "I will resign to take responsibility for causing trouble," declared Mr Kimura yesterday.

Mitsubishi's announcement coincided with an admission by Toshiba that it had paid "hundreds of thousands of yen" over the past 10 years to a firm linked to *sokaiya* racketeers. "We apologise that we made such dubious payments," said a Toshiba spokesperson.

Japanese press reports claimed that Toshiba's payments to the gangsters were allegedly channelled through a *sokaiya*-linked firm, which rented beach houses to corporate clients. The reports also said

that possibly up to another 10 big companies, were involved with dealings with illegal payments to *sokaiya*.

A spokesperson for Hitachi, the electronics group, confirmed that the company had also rented beach houses from the *sokaiya*-linked firm, but refused to comment further, saying the matter was "under police investigation".

Payments to *sokaiya*, who threaten to disrupt shareholders' meetings with embarrassing revelations about board members and dubious company activities, have been illegal in Japan since 1983. But back-banders to *sokaiya*, as has recently been shown, are still deeply embedded in Japanese business culture.

Telewest consortium agrees pay-per-view film deal with Columbia

A group of cable companies has signed up a second Hollywood studio to show pay-per-view films. But they face a challenge from Cable & Wireless Communications, which has broken away from the rest of the industry and is expected to take BSkyB's pay-per-view service. Cathy Newman reports.

On Demand Management, the group representing Telewest Communications, NTL, General Cable and Diamond Cable Communications, has negotiated a non-exclusive agreement with Columbia TriStar Pictures, which will give customers the opportunity to pay to view individual films. The deal follows a similar arrangement with Warner Brothers, which BSkyB has also signed up.

Cable industry sources say Columbia is one of the most important studios as it made three

of the top four releases in the United States this summer, including *Men in Black*. Cable companies are hoping to launch their pay-per-view channels in January, although some observers believe this is optimistic. But the cable industry's hopes of persuading other studios, such as Universal Studios, to supply films to cable customers were dealt a potentially fatal blow with the news that Cable & Wireless Communications, which had originally been part of the On Demand

consortium, was to link up with BSkyB within the next fortnight. As he unveiled deepening losses at Telewest, the second biggest cable company, Stephen Davidson, the chief executive, yesterday refused to comment on the Columbia deal. He also denied that CWC's absence from On Demand had left the cable pay-per-view service in disarray. "The enduring desire and willingness of Hollywood to deal with the cable industry direct is enabling us to put this deal in place," he said.

Telewest said its losses for the nine months to the end of September increased by 27 per cent to £225.5m. However, earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation rose to £32.2m from a loss of £5.6m. Mr Davidson said there was a "possibility" that cable customers would not be able to get access to cable via a digital platform until 1999. Telewest has said in the past that it would be ready to launch in the autumn. There was no news on its merger talks with NTL.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY NIGEL COPE

Danka beats City expectations

The quoted photocopier sector has been lined with failures over the past few years but Danka Business Systems has emerged as a powerful player in a still fragmented market. It has also been a hugely successful investment story with the shares rising 12-fold over the last five years. Danka's expansion has been relentless, with a string of acquisitions crowned last year with the £430m deal to buy Eastman Kodak's office imaging division.

Critics have wondered whether this was a deal too far, so yesterday's figures, the first six-month set to include a full Kodak contribution, were eagerly awaited.

The results were better than expected, which pleased Danka's meagre City following, though the shares dropped 34p to 615p on some selling in the US, where 70 per cent of this group's equity is held. Figures for the six months to 30 September showed profits 21 per cent ahead at £43m. This included a £2m hit from currency translation.

Danka is on track to achieve cost savings of £200m from the integration of the Kodak business over the two years since the deal. But the real Holy Grail lies in the margin. The Kodak business was achieving margins of just 2 per cent when Danka bought it compare to Danka's 9 per cent. The Kodak margins are already improving and Danka reckons it can haul them up to 9 per cent within two years.

The company is taking a pause on acquisitions in its copier business, which means a bid for the troubled Eurocopy is unlikely. But management says Danka may buy businesses in its fast-growing facilities management operation.

Group debts have come down from £500m to £450m. These look uncomfortable on top of £37m of net assets but the company says it prefers to use interest cover as a yardstick and that stands at 3.5 times.

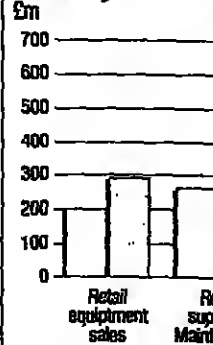
Though recurring overheads as a percentage of turnover have decreased significantly in the past year, the group will spend an additional £2m-£3m in each of the next two quarters as it streamlines its IT system, On Collins

Danka Business systems: At a glance

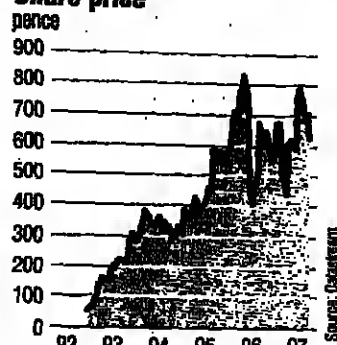
Market value: £1.40bn, share price 615p (-34p)

Turnover (£m)	515.6	782.9	1,323	534.4	1,020
Pre-tax profit					
Earnings per share (p)	16.8	18.0	9.1	11.3	13.5
Dividends per share					

Sales by division



Share price



Stewart forecasts of £112.8m for the full year, the shares trade on a forward rating of 18. With the shares well off their 830p peak of last May, that looks reasonable value.

Time is running out for Rank

Whenever Rank announces new figures these days its shares seem to tumble. So its third quarter trading statement announced yesterday was anticipated with trepidation by the City. In fact, the figures were reasonable.

Operating profits rose 13 per cent to £139m in the three months to September after a disappointing first half. The main reason for the improvement lies in the recovery of the video duplication business due to big releases such as the *Star Wars* trilogy. Even so the shares, which have had a dreadful run, gained only 2p to 334p.

Rank's fortunes rely heavily on the success of its Hard Rock Cafe brand. It is busy extending the business by setting up anything from Hard Rock ho-

tels to a Hard Rock record label. But alarmingly merchandise sales continue to slip and operating profits are still flat. The Tom Copleigh pub chain also continues to be a disappointment.

Andrew Teare, the chief executive appointed last year to turn the leisure giant around, still has his work cut out. Investment in Hard Rock should eventually pay off, but throwing money at tired brands like Butlin's is a gamble.

Mr Teare has cleared out a lot of Rank's deadwood since his arrival. But to some extent that was the easy part. Mr Teare yesterday ruled out any more disposals for the foreseeable future. He wisely recognises that Rank has to start producing a decent return from the massive investment it has already put into the businesses that are left.

Rank may well not see the full benefit of Mr Teare's reforms for three of four years. However, the City is unlikely to wait that long.

Mr Teare will have to show that the spending programme has produced some substantial uplift in profits by the end of next year if he is to quell growing criticism and get the share

price moving in the right direction again. On full year forecasts of £295m the shares trade on a forward rating of 15. Hold.

Acquisitions boost Pressac

Pressac the Derby-based component maker, bucked the market trend with a 2.5p improvement to 279p yesterday, but it took a 57 per cent leap in profits to £10.1m in the year to end July to do so. Acquisitions in Italy, the US and Brazil during the second half of the year were largely responsible for the 39 per cent surge in sales, but 11 per cent came from organic growth and margins topped 10 per cent on sales for the first time in the company's history.

Acquisitions have lifted overseas earnings from 52 per cent of sales to 63 per cent and to 70 per cent in the current year, but overseas earnings are fully hedged into 1999.

Dependence on the car industry has risen from 65 per cent to over 70 per cent of sales, but the group is winning market share in an industry expected to grow 130 per cent to \$84bn worldwide by 2005.

A range of new products for lighting instrument panels and seat sensors to make airbags more effective should maintain the upward trend in turnover.

Another 20 per cent of sales comes from telecoms, where Pressac is pushing new keyboards and circuits for mobile phones and connectors for industrial systems.

Spending on research and development grew faster than overall sales growth last year, capital expenditure is set to double to £11m over the next 12-18 months, but two smaller engineering businesses that are deemed non-core could fetch around £8m to fund further growth and acquisitions.

Analysts are still forecasting profits of £13.8m in the current year. That puts the shares on a conservative forward rating of 18 times. Good value for a fast growing company.

S&N plans more Scottish theme pubs on the Continent

Scottish & Newcastle is planning to expand its chain of Scottish theme pubs across Continental Europe. Andrew Yates finds that the brewing and leisure giant is also likely to launch a large-scale shake up of its tenanted pub estate.

Brian Stewart, chief executive of Scottish & Newcastle, said: "Our pubs in Europe are going extremely well. The demand for British pubs on the Continent is very strong. We are looking to grow our chain."

S&N first started opening pubs on the Continent to provide a channel for its leading beer brands such as John Smith's, Foster's and Kronenbourg outside the UK.

Encouraged by the growing trend for Europeans to go out to bars rather than buy beer from shops or off-licences and the incredible popularity of themed pubs in Europe's major cities, the group is now expanding its estate.

S&N currently has a token

20 pubs in mainland Europe, most of which are based on a Scottish theme. The pubs are typically much bigger than the average British house, selling up to 700 barrels of beer a week. Called anything from The Highlander to The Flying Scotsman, they offer a range of British beers.

The biggest concentration of pubs is in Italy, where it opened its first site on the Continent four years ago and where it is looking for many more pubs. S&N also has pubs in France, Germany, Spain, Sweden and Germany.

S&N is also experimenting with new themed pubs. It currently runs two Cafe Oz Australian bars in Paris and has teamed up with the founders of the chain to open new outlets around France.

Meanwhile, industry sources suggest S&N will run down its 700 strong tenanted pub estate in the UK over the next few years.

It is planning to convert a big chunk of the estate to managed outlets. It will also incorporate some of the pubs into its themed chains such as Chef & Brewer. Most of the rest of the tenanted estate is likely to be sold off.

S&N is prevented from expanding its chain by the Beer Orders, which restrict the number of pubs brewers can own. It is now right on its limit with 2,624 pubs.

However selling some of its tenanted estate would give it leeway to expand and create new themed bars.

The company is also looking to set up its own restaurant chain, according to another source, although these plans are still at an early stage.

S&N is also looking to re-structure its leisure division. It is likely to sell its Poulton's holiday camp business within the next few years and plans to slim down the business by closing some sites around the country.

However S&N is believed to have ruled out the immediate sale of Centre Parcs, its holiday village business, that has proved popular in the UK but has struggled in Holland and Belgium.

S&N has turned its attention to sorting out the business in the Benelux countries. It may then look to open more Centre Parcs around Europe and could enter the US market.

Indian TV project flops for Carlton

Carlton Communications is expected to sell or write down its stake in Home TV, the Indian satellite channel, in order to focus on its digital television activities in the UK.

The company invested £7m in a 15 per cent stake in the channel in the spring of 1996. However, a spokesman said yesterday: "Clearly this project has had a difficult time. We're going to have to consider in the next few weeks whether to continue with it."

Pearson also has a 15 per cent stake in Home TV, a Hindi-language entertainment channel. Other investors are the Hindustan Times, the Hong Kong media group TVB and Schroder Capital Ventures. The channel competes head-on with Rupert Murdoch's Zee TV.

Analysts say broadcasters were initially attracted to the Indian TV marketplace because of the disposable income of the middle class there. However, the sector is now seen as overcrowded and the advertising market is underdeveloped. Home TV was funded entirely by advertising, rather than subscriptions.

This is not the first time an overseas investment has gone sour for Carlton. In April this year, the company made a £4m provision when Channel KTV, a karaoke music television business based in Singapore, went into liquidation. Carlton had a 31 per cent stake in the channel.

The company still has investments in a French cable channel, Festival, and its Carlton Select and Carlton Food Network channels are now available in the sub-Saharan and elsewhere in Africa. Carlton is keen to concentrate on its digital television interests.

Cathy Newman

Siemens Defence goes to BAe/Daimler Benz group

Siemens is selling Siemens Defence Electronics to a consortium comprising British Aerospace and Daimler Benz Aerospace for DM929m (£325m). The BAe-DASA consortium beat off competition from Thomson CSR, the only other company on a shortlist drawn up by Siemens two months ago.

Siemens Defence, which has annual sales of DM1.2bn and 3,800 employees, is involved in the design, development and production of land and naval radar systems, command and control systems and communications systems. Its principal operations are: Siemens Plessey Systems in the UK; Siemens Bereich Sicherungstechnik in Germany; and Siemens Plessey Electronics Systems in Australia.

In a statement, DASA said: "In view of the current consolidation in the American and European defence industries, in the future, the competition in systems technology will not take place at a national but on an international level."

Axa-UAP beats forecasts

Axa-UAP, the world's second-biggest insurer, earned a higher than expected half-year profit of Fr4.2bn (£439m), with US insurance and financial services activities contributing more than a third of the total. It was the first time the company posted half-year results after its creation in January, which followed Axa's acquisition of UAP, the biggest ever merger in French financial services. Analysts had expected a profit of Fr3.8bn. UAP earned Fr860m in the first half of 1996, while Axa earned Fr1.98bn. The company said it expected to post a profit of Fr7.5bn for the whole of 1997.

Vodafone ups French stake

Vodafone Group has given notice to Compagnie Generale des Eaux that it will exercise its option to increase its stake in Societe Francaise du Radiotelephone (SFR), the French GSM digital network operator, to 20 per cent. Completion of the £108m deal is scheduled for 23 December.

This is the second part of Vodafone's option to increase its holding in SFR. It increased its stake from 10 to 16.1 per cent in July last year. SFR operates one of three mobile telephone networks in France and has a market share of around 38 per cent. At the end of last month it had 1.61 million subscribers, up 42 per cent since April. Vodafone said the cellular telephone market in France remained relatively underpenetrated compared with other European countries at around 7 per cent of the total population.

RJB Australian deal fails

RJB Mining said its CIM Resources subsidiary had failed to complete the purchase of Exxon Corporation's Australian coal assets. At a general meeting held yesterday, CIM Resources shareholders voted against resolutions to approve the revision of the subscription agreement with RJB. The primary purpose of the subscription agreement was to provide CIM with sufficient resources to fund future coal based acquisitions. "The decision to vote down the revised subscription agreement has resulted in CIM having insufficient equity to complete the acquisition of Exxon's Australian coal assets," said a spokesman for RJB.

Duty-free plan goes ahead

The European Commission will not propose changing the EU's scheduled abolition of intra-EU duty free and tax free shopping from 1 July 1999. An EC spokesman said that Mario Monti, internal market commissioner, had told the European Parliament this in response to the current campaign by traders, unions, airlines and ferry companies to prevent the abolition. He added that Mr Monti had said that the decision on the abolition was taken by EU governments.

BPB expansion continues

BPB Industries, the plasterboard and building materials group, said it expected to maintain its annual rate of capital expenditure at around £130m over the next three years as it continued to expand into Eastern Europe and develop its plants in South America. Jean-Pierre Cuny, chief executive, said he believed that plasterboard volumes in Eastern Europe would equal those of the UK by 2000 and overtake it by the year 2005.

The company's new plants in Poland and the Czech Republic had opened up the lucrative markets of Eastern Europe and the Ukraine, where the plasterboard market was only real growth product in the building materials market and breeze block," he said.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

LEA PATERSON



Forget talk of smoke-filled rooms and boardroom coups. I can reveal that the real reason why Sean Lance resigned as chief operating officer at Glaxo Wellcome was nothing to do with being pipped at the post by Robert Ingram in the battle to succeed Sir Richard Sykes as Glaxo's top dog. It was, as they say, all about location, location and location.

It seems that Mr Lance was more than a little unhappy about plans to move Glaxo's top dogs from their plush Mayfair offices in Berkeley Square to the wilds of Greenford in Middlesex. Berkeley Square is no more than a pleasant stroll from Mr Lance's central London home. Greenford, by contrast, requires a struggle up the congested Westway. Or even worse, public transport. Let's hope that Mr Ingram will be a little happier about the commute.

And location, location, location is also key for Vivian Brown, the new head of the Government's Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD). The ECGD is more or less slap bang next door to *The Independent*, here in Canary Wharf. The DTI, Mr Brown's current abode, is of course right by Westminster, at number one Victoria Street.

The healthy-minded Mr Brown currently cycles to work along the river from his home in Kingston. And the problem with the new offices? "The extra six miles might defeat me", chuckled Mr Brown, who is planning instead to struggle in on the Docklands Light Railway.

Mr Brown is concerned that changes to his exercise regime, coupled with working lunches, could lead to him gaining an unwanted pound or two. No need to worry, Mr Brown. I'm sure that the walk to Kingston Station, the change on to the Tube at Waterloo and the maze of corridors that link the Tube to the DLR at Bank will provide a more than adequate workout.

Oh dear, Ann Iverson, head of embattled retailer Laura Ashley, certainly seems to be clumsy with her management team. Patricia Manning, once Ms Iverson's marketing director, this week became the latest in the long line of executives to hit the bullet. Ms Manning is currently on holiday, and "will not be returning", according to a Laura Ashley spokeswoman.

Ms Manning was, of course, one of six women on the nine-strong executive team lined up by Ms Iverson to "turn things around" at Laura Ashley. As things have lurched from bad to worse, four of the original line-up, including three women, have quit the team in recent months.

Ms Iverson herself is a champion of women managers. "Female executives make tough decisions as easily and sometimes quicker than men," she once remarked. True words, given the haste with which

her female colleagues have decided to move to pastures new.

Many of us dream of escaping from England's miserable winters to sun, sea and sand down Under. And Peter Kirby, world-wide head of ICI Paints, is no exception.

Johannesburg-born Mr Kirby is leaving ICI after 25 years of service to return to Australia. Mr Kirby, who spent a number of years with ICI in Melbourne, is set to join CSR, an Australian building materials company, as chief executive.

"Well, essentially, it's sort of a lifestyle choice," Mr Kirby explained yesterday. "I like Australia. I am an Australian citizen, and here was an Australian multi-national company making me an offer. It seemed like too good an opportunity to miss."

Finding time to indulge in his passion for classic cars is a key challenge for Mr Kirby in his new role. Trying his hand at scuba diving is another. "I want to find time to scuba dive," he said, "and Australia is certainly the place to do it". Snorkelling off the Great Barrier Reef beats practising in a grotty London pool hands down.

On reflection, Balls Brothers could probably have chosen a better week for the re-opening of its Cannon Street wine and champagne bar. I would imagine that knocking back the Bolly is hardly top priority for traders in the most turbulent week for the London markets since the 1987 crash.

"On Monday and Tuesday lunch-time we were pretty quiet", admitted Balls Bros' assistant manager Matthew McAuliffe.

But there is a happy ending to the story. On Tuesday evening, after the markets pulled back from the brink, business picked up in style. "On Tuesday, we had one of the busiest nights we've ever had", said Mr McAuliffe. And it appears that vintage champagne was the drink of choice for celebrating traders.

Directors go in boardroom overhaul at troubled QSP

The troubled Quality Software Products group yesterday announced a boardroom overhaul, cutting its main board of directors from eight to five as part of a shift in the company's commercial policy from development to sales and marketing.

Chris French one of two non-executive directors is leaving the company. Alan Gray, director of product & support services, and Roy Stoves, president of the company's US operations, QSP, have resigned from the board, but will join a new nine-man group operations management team.

A spokesman said the three former directors will receive no compensation. The changes do not imply any blame for the

company's past performance, and the salaries of Mr Gray and Mr Stoves will not be affected.

Three months ago Alan Mordain, former chairman and chief executive and a founder director, who was blamed for a sudden profit slump in 1995 finally left the company without compensation. Ian Stewart took over the chief executive's role in October last year and Alan Benjamin was appointed chairman in February this year.

QSP made a profit of £28,000 in 1996 after losing more than £1m in the first half and another small profit in the first half of the current year. Its shares, which traded as high as 708p early last year, eased 1p to 237.5p yesterday.

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TREASURY Bills						
LIBOR			6.95	6.85		
90-day	7.0	7.31	7.0	7.25	7.31	7.34
180-day	7.0	7.31	7.23	7.31	7.38	7.38
360-day	7.25	7.25	7.0	7.22	7.32	7.42
Domestic Deposits						
90-day	7.0	7.31	7.0	7.25	7.31	7.34
180-day	7.0	7.31	7.23	7.31	7.38	7.38
360-day	7.25	7.25	7.0	7.22	7.32	7.42
Foreign Deposits						
90-day	7.0	7.31	7.0	7.25	7.31	7.34
180-day	7.0	7.31	7.23	7.31	7.38	7.38
360-day	7.25	7.25	7.0	7.22	7.32	7.42

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consistency herein			
SS Bloomberg			
www.bloomberg.com			
Legal & General Mgt Ac Ser2	11250	60720	Sun Life/Canada Equity Acc
Legal & General Mgt Ac Ser2	63770	7300	Sun Life/Canada Equity Acc
Legal & General Mgt Ac Ser2	10120	15320	199 Equity
Legal & General Mgt Ac Ser2	23800	33650	199 Homebuyer
Legal & General Mgt Ac Ser2	62800	6640	199 Managed

RUGBY LEAGUE

Lockyer leaps and bounds ahead of the competition

Darren Lockyer has his peers and the pundits drooling Down Under. The Brisbane full-back's scintillating combination of guile and outstanding rugby league skills will pose a considerable threat to Great Britain in tomorrow's first Test at Wembley. Dave Hadfield issues a warning.

There can be no shirt in world sport more coveted, harder to earn and to keep than the green and gold one with the No 1 on the back.

Even by Australian standards, the wearers of that jersey since the war have been a parade of champions. Starting with Clive Churchill, through Graeme Langlands, Graham Eadie, Greg Brentnall, Gary Jack and Gary Belcher to the last regular incumbent before the Super League split muddled the waters, Brett Mullins; you do not need to be a serious student of rugby league to know that these are not merely some of the best full-backs ever to play the game, but some of the best players in any position.

It says everything about Darren Lockyer that, at the age of 20, he is already being talked about in the same breath as these giants.

After only one full season in the first team at the Brisbane Broncos, Lockyer has outrun and outjumped the competition to make himself an automatic selection for the Australian

side that starts its three-Test series against Great Britain at Wembley tomorrow.

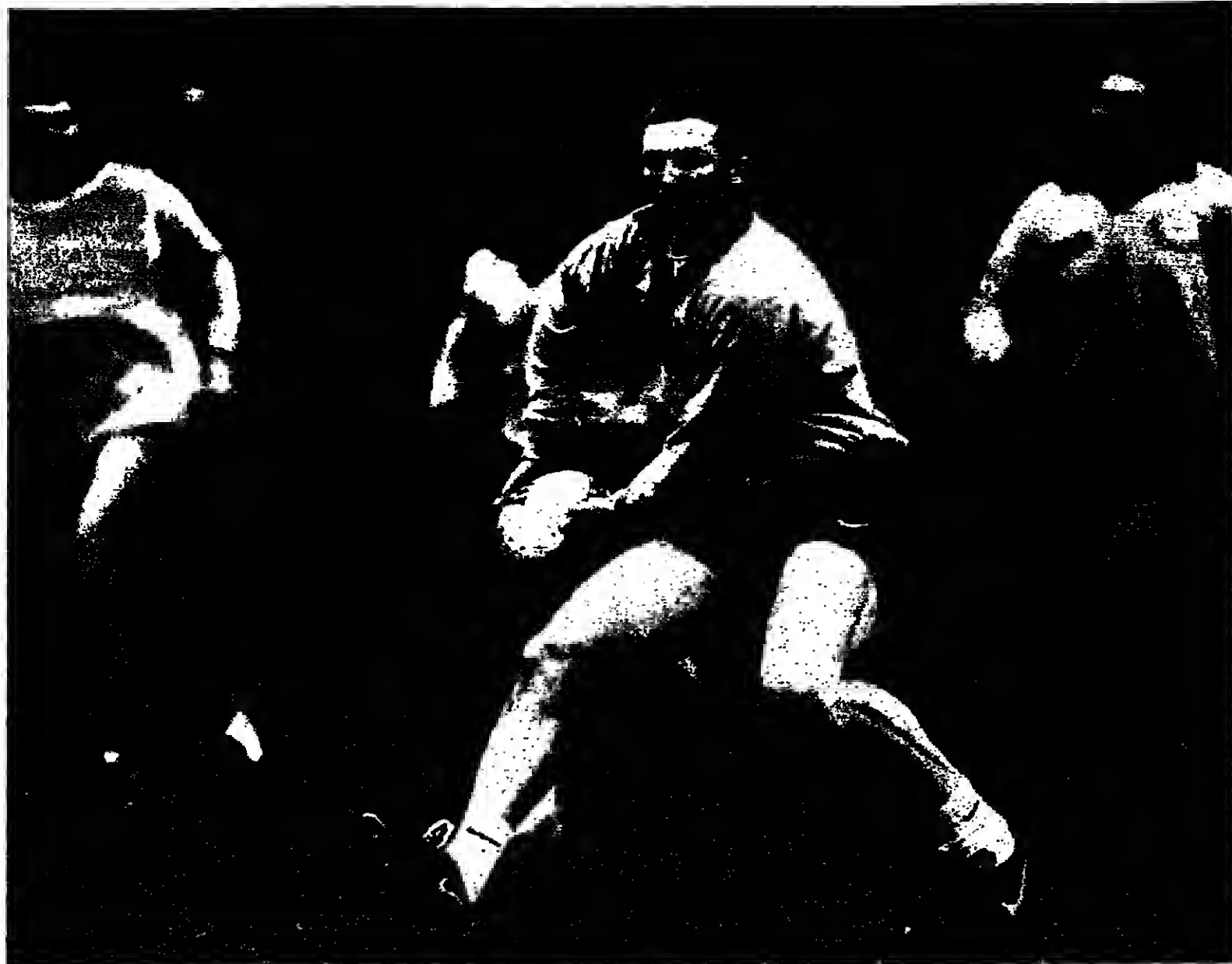
And what competition it is. Apart from Mullins, the squad now in camp in London contains three players - Ken Nagas, David Peachey and Wendell Sailor - whose preferred position would be full-back. That is without considering a player of the calibre of the Hunter Mariners' Robbie Ross, who was left behind, or the Australian Rugby League-affiliated Tim Brasher or Robbie O'Davis.

If there has ever been a more gleaming golden age for Australian full-backs, nobody remembers it - and Lockyer is the jewel in the crown. No less an authority than his Brisbane team-mate, Steve Renouf - missing from this tour through injury - rated him as the best player in the world this season.

Renouf would be many people's choice for that title himself, but his captain, Allan Langer, says: "I'm not going to argue with him."

Lockyer, with just a handful of first-grade appearances behind him this season, was an inspiration during the Broncos' triumphant progress towards the inaugural Super League title and the World Club Championship. Even in an ill-fated international debut - the 30-12 defeat by New Zealand in Auckland last month - Lockyer was the only Australian player to enhance his reputation, scoring both tries as well as trying desperately to shore up a leaky defence.

For all that record of early



Golden boy: Darren Lockyer in training yesterday for tomorrow's Test, when the Australian No 1 is expected to shine

Photograph: Victoria Mathers

achievement, his Brisbane coach, Wayne Bennett, is typically cautious about predicting what he will achieve. He says it is too early to put him in the company of some of his illustrious predecessors in the Australian full-back's shirt.

"He has shown how good he is at the moment. How far he will go depends on how he handles the success he is having now. There are things he has to get in place and keep in place over the years," Bennett says.

"He might not even finish his career at full-back."

That is true. Although Lockyer says he is more than happy to simply be there for both Brisbane and Australia at this stage, he played much of his junior rugby at stand-off and hankers for a return to that role at some juncture.

You can already see that potential in his play from full-back. Where a great specialist in the position like Eadie came thundering into the play and headed straight for the try-line, Lockyer has the football brain to come into the line and start changing the angles of attack

and directing play. It is a virtuoso effort from such a fresh-faced newcomer and does hint that, especially after Langer's retirement, he could be the man to take control in midfield.

As Langer points out, however, it was only a lucky accident that brought Lockyer into rugby league at all. He lived his early childhood in Australian Rules football territory and would have gone on to make a name for himself in that code had his family not moved to the Queensland country outpost

of Roma, which has produced, among many others, the great Arthur Beetson, and where the only game in town has 13 players per side.

His Rules background - something he has in common with his predecessor, Brentnall - shows in his leaping ability and composure under the high ball. But the aspect of his game for which he is best known carries echoes of another sport entirely. The influence of American football on Australian rugby league shows in the way that statistics

are now kept for yardage from kick returns. Even against opposition from the likes of Peachey and Nagas - both longer-striding and more obviously powerful - Lockyer is the undisputed champion of that art. Great Britain should kick in his direction very selectively, if at all.

It will not keep him quiet, but it might go some way towards limiting the damage. And that, against the great players who have worn the Australian No 1 jersey, has always been the first objective.

Full-back post has Goodway in a quandary

Andy Goodway is delaying naming his Great Britain side to play Australia until the minimum 75 minutes before kick off at Wembley tomorrow, with the full-back position to demand heart-searching from him and his coaching team.

The withdrawal of Bradford's Stuart Spruce with a damaged ankle leaves three main possibilities. Jason Robinson has played full-back with considerable success for Wigan during the second half of the season, his team-mate Kris Radlinski has played there with great assurance for both club and country and Paul Acheson performed well at No 1 for Oldham during their difficult Super League campaign.

But Acheson, despite his caps for Wales, is untried at full Test level and Robinson's lack of height could make him vulnerable under the high kick. If Radlinski were to play there, Alan Hunte could partner his St Helens team-mate Paul Newlove in the centres and that could be the option Goodway might favour.

In the meantime, he will leave Australia in the dark about his intentions for as long as possible. "I'm still weighing up a few things and I don't want to give Australia any advantage," he said.

Goodway, although he could be excused for some lingering uncertainties, knows who will play, but has chosen not to reveal it.

Australia, on the other hand, have confirmed that Gordon Tait will come into the second row in place of the injured Bradley Clyde, with Craig Greenhill taking his place on the bench.

Three Hull directors have resigned over the sale of their most valuable player, Tevita Vaikona, to Bradford. John Adamson, Allan Mason and Brian Tindall have all stepped down after publicly disagreeing with the move.

- Dave Hadfield

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Channel 4, Sunday 2nd November at 7.57pm.



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RUGBY UNION

Scarlets put All Blacks before cup tie

Llanelli are faced with having to do the unpalatable in order to avoid the unthinkable. Provided they beat Cardiff in the Heineken European Cup quarter-final play-off at the Arms Park tomorrow they will qualify for a tie at Bath the following weekend. Unfortunately, that date, 8 November, had already been earmarked for a lucrative match against the touring New Zealanders.

Most of the tickets have been sold, hospitality and sponsorship is already in place and a century of colourful tradition between the Scarlets and the All Blacks dictates that the match goes ahead. Which is Llanelli's intention. Calling it off would be unthinkable, especially when it has to be remembered that Stradey Park was the scene of a famous victory by Llanelli over the All Blacks a quarter of a century ago. But an alternative date could not be agreed between Llanelli and Bath.

The European Cup organisers therefore insisted that were Llanelli to qualify the tie would go ahead on 8 November and so the unpalatable decision had to be made - and Llanelli will pull out of the Heineken Cup. Officially no decision will be made until after the Arms Park play-off, but a measure of the club's thinking can be gauged from what the team manager, Anthony Buchanan, said last night.

While not wanting to get caught up in the politics of the situation, Buchanan explained: "Historically the New Zealand match is a huge game. There is a real buzz in the town, throughout Wales really. And with the national team having to play their home games at Wembley this season, this fixture takes on even more significance. I also think that we will not see many more matches between club sides and the All Blacks in the future."

But Buchanan insisted: "As far as I am concerned we are going up to Cardiff to get a win on Saturday to take us through to the quarter-finals proper."

That certainly dispels any lingering doubts there might have been about the possibility of Llanelli "throwing" the game. There is no need. Either way, win or lose, Cardiff will qualify if Llanelli pull out.

The unprecedented step had been flagged by the club chairman, Ron Jones, a fortnight ago when he was reported as saying that the Scarlets regarded playing the All Blacks as more important than the prospect of reaching the Heineken Cup semi-finals. However, the Scarlets have established that withdrawal, were they to win tomorrow, would not prejudice their future participation.

The Bristol wing Ben Breeze looks unlikely to be participating in the rest of his club's campaign. Breeze un-

derwent an operation yesterday on his right ankle to repair a dislocation of the joint and a spiral fracture of the fibula injured in Bristol's victory over a Tongan XV on Wednesday.

The appointment of Lawrence Dallaglio as England captain ahead of the successful British Lions captain, Martin Johnson, has raised eyebrows in the southern hemisphere. The Lions triumphed 2-1 in the Test series over South Africa in the summer and the Springboks team manager, Arthur Peterson, said: "England's decision comes as quite a big surprise because he came across as a competitive and inspirational leader under difficult circumstances."

A Welsh Rugby Union tribunal has ordered Ebbw Vale to pay Pontypool £5,000 for the wing Lennie Woodard, with a further £2,000 payable when he has played 15 matches.

- David Llewellyn

CRICKET

Maynard given green light to continue at Glamorgan

Matthew Maynard, who led Glamorgan to the County Championship last season, has been re-appointed as captain for 1998.

The club secretary, Mike Farkin, said: "Matthew's contribution to Glamorgan's success was enormous and there was never a doubt he would be re-appointed."

"He has proved himself an astute captain who reads the game well, knows the strengths and weaknesses of his players and has the respect and support of everyone at Glamorgan. He knows he faces a challenge in trying to repeat this season's achievement next year but it is one he will relish."

Leicestershire have also re-appointed James Whitaker as their captain for next year. Whitaker, who replaced

Nigel Briers, led the Foxes to the County Championship title in 1996, his first season in charge, and to the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals this summer.

The Australian Cricket Board might be breaking the law by refusing to deal with the Australian Cricketers' Association consultants, Graham Hallish and James Erskine, over the current pay dispute. The ACA has insisted on dealing only with the ACA president, Tim May, the former Test player who last week handed the Board a 25-page document outlining the players' demands for better conditions.

The ACA released a background briefing yesterday with legal opinion from its solicitors claiming that the ACA, by refusing to deal with the con-

sultants, was contravening the Workplace Relations Act of 1996.

"This is not just about pay," the Australian captain Mark Taylor said. "It's about trying to get a workplace agreement in place for the future of the game." He admitted that players might face a public reaction in their fight for better conditions.

"The current players are going to have to carry the can, they're the ones who are going to be called mercenaries, greedily," he said. "We don't want to rape the game of any unnecessary funds." Taylor said the players would be happy to forgo a 10 per cent pay rise for the time being.

The ACA released its financial status publicly for the first time on Wednesday, showing a loss last year of

£1.12m - but the green cap is safe. The ACA said it would never sell copies of the national team's famous "buggy green cap" despite a push to make more money from official merchandise.

The cap is given to players when they are called up for Test duty bears the Australian coat of arms, and the ACA's marketing manager said it would stay "sacrosanct". ACA figures reveal that just £314,000 was earned last year from the sales of cricket shirts, bats and other items. Australian Rules football earns £2.2m a year from merchandise, while rugby league and rugby union make about £450,000 each. The ACA believes overall merchandising revenue should be greater, given that £3m is spent on marketing.

Montgomery battles to get in the right mood

[illegible]

The newspaper described the side as "an Italian team of lions". It continued: "This was a battle beyond time on a pitch where every sod of turf repre-

The general consensus is that Italy have left far behind the disappointments of recent 0-0 World Cup draws with Poland, Georgia and England

Turin's *TuttoSport* suggested the Azzurri already had one foot in the door to France next summer. "Italy, what courage," it crowed. "Cesare Maldini made a brilliant start to his Russian campaign, picking the right men and the right tactics... coming close to winning the game and in the end returning home with a draw that gives us plenty of hope for qualification."

The headline in the *Sport Express* newspaper said: "Russia show in Moscow they can win in Naples." The paper lamented the mistake on the snow-bound surface that gave Vieri the chance to score a precious away goal and said the Russians had had two strong - but unrewarded - penalty claims.

Akhrik Tseiba, who had just come on in the centre of the Russian defence for the concussed captain Viktor Onopko, slipped to let Vieri open the scoring after 49 minutes. "We were better, but Tseiba's error

Vieri's away goal leaves Italy needing only a goalless draw or the narrowest of victories in Naples to reach the 1998 finals.

Russian commentators saw hope, however, in the spirit with which their side played after a dismal run of performances.

"If our players play as passionately and with such self-sacrifice in Naples, then Russia stand a good chance of reaching the finals," Valentin Ivanov, a member of the strong Soviet teams of the 1950s, told the *Sovietsky Sport* newspaper.

The *Leeds* Grimby and Tranmere winger, Ivano Bonetti has returned home to Italy to join Genoa after a short spell with Crystal Palace.

— Alan Nixon

8 Your rates, nothing less,
may be redefined by Gov-
ernment department (8)
9 Doctor in South American
country receiving new issue
(8)
14 Library book I loaned out
(8)
16 Supplier of dressing case
about to go bust (5-4)
17 Writer taking bath a month
ago (8)
19 Old North American upset
over one investing in his
currency (7)
21 Martyr's last words?
Crickety (15-2)
22 Lorry gets cold in polar
region (6)
24 Soccer game to join up
again (5)
25 Pensioner clutching it
turns up in paved area (5)

Takeover saves Wigan from going to the wall

Bradshaw said he had little alternative but to accept a rescue package put together by Martyn, the owner of the nightclub at the Wigan ground. He resigned after a row with his fellow directors earlier this year and will be widely seen as a stalking horse for the Wigan Athletic chairman, Dave Whelan.

Martyn also said that he had obtained an assurance from Tesco, who have bought Central Park, that the club can stay there for two or even three seasons until Robin Park is ready. That removes the threat of having to move out of the borough to play at Bolton Wanderers' new Reebok Stadium, a plan that caused a widespread consternation among the rugby club's supporters.

"Love the game, but I am no fool with money and I know what's a good investment," he said. "I believe Wigan is a good investment, but we have identified the major weakness. Our number one priority will be finance, so we will be bringing in a high-level financial controller."

Wigan dominated the game in Britain for a decade but have run into problems, fuelled by overspending and exacerbated

They have been forced to part with many of their best players, but have re-signed Denis Beets from Auckland and bought out Jason Robinson's Australian contract, both at considerable cost, in an attempt to claw their way back to the top of the heap. How successfully they will do so depends largely on whether the new set-up unveiled yesterday can control their expenditure sufficiently to restore confidence.

**Darren Lockyer and
Test news, page 30**

Blood on the track as marathon woman tucks in

yet to come to the authorities' attention. Yet it may be giving Ruwiyati an unfair advantage. "I don't know why, but as soon as I reach the finish line, I suck my coach's blood from his finger and I feel refreshed," she said. Ben Johnson is thought to be heading out to Indonesia to mug up on the new technique.

- Chris Maume